



JESUS IS OUR HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LUKE 2:22-35

1 **Sometimes events in life greatly exceed our expectations, and other times they just fall short.** The account of Simeon in Luke 2 is a story about great expectations.

 *What is something you waited a long time to do, such as leave home, get married, have a baby, or get your dream job? What was your greatest expectation for that event? Did the event live up to your expectation?*


2 **Simeon lived in expectation of the Messiah's coming.** It was his grand hope. He believed that God's promised Deliverer could come at any time.

 *If we lived more expectantly of Christ's return, what would change in how we live our lives?*


3 **How would you describe Simeon from Luke 2:25-26?**

 *What do you think the relationship is between Simeon's righteousness and devotion and his being able to recognize who Jesus was?*


 *How can we become more in tune with God's plan so that we recognize God's work?*

 *What aspects of your life most distract you from recognizing God's work? What most often keeps you from attentiveness to God's unfolding plan around you? Apply what you discussed about Simeon's life. Don't immediately blame circumstances. Instead focus on your heart responses and behaviors.*

4 **How might knowing that Jesus' plan of redemption is for all people challenge us to invest in the mission of making Christ known to all people?**

 *How are you doing in fulfilling the responsibility to announce to all people the availability of God's salvation in Jesus? How can we do it better in 2021?*

5 **Simeon's encounter with Jesus in the temple changed everything for him.** In what ways has a past encounter with Jesus been a turning point in your life?

 *Simeon praised God for salvation in Jesus. In what ways does your life demonstrate praise to God for His salvation?*

PRAYER REQUESTS

6 **Respond in prayer.**

- > *Pray that encountering Jesus becomes our greatest longing this holiday season. Praise God for fulfilling all his promises in Jesus.*
- > *Thank the Lord that our hopes are safe if they rest in him.*
- > *Pray for those who don't have comfort or deliverance this season. Ask God to balm people's restless hearts and save sinners.*
- > *As the Lord reveals where your heart really is this Christmas, ask him to draw you to himself and change you for his glory.*