



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Hopeless in Jerusalem*

Text: Luke 2:22-38

Service Date: December 15, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Growing up, did your family have any traditions they celebrated during the Advent season? If you have a family of your own, have you continued any of those same traditions or made your own?
- What memories do you have around the idea of waiting as a child, specifically related to the holiday season?

Sermon Discussion

- Take a moment to read Luke 2:22-38. What things come to your mind from the text?
- Paul talked about the period of 400 years (known as the Intertestamental Period) between Old and New Testaments. We don't know much about the 400 years but do know that there were individuals who remained faithful, waiting for the Messiah. If you were waiting on the Messiah to come but knew you may never see Him, how would this affect your faith? What role does faith play in seasons or times of life when we may never see the final outcome?
- Simeon and Anna provided a contrast to the hopelessness of Jerusalem. In our lives, where can we provide hope to those who are experiencing hopelessness? (This could be considered on a large scale, globally, but also locally such as in our church and/or community.)
- The truth is that we need confirmation about our walk with the Lord, like Anna showing up at the Temple and reminding God's people of His promise and hope. Why do you keep coming back to church every Sunday? Is there an area of your life that needs be taking a spiritual step (i.e. baptism, membership, ministry involvement, telling someone Jesus) as a response to

the Messiah?

- Simeon and Anna had waited their entire lives to see the Messiah. When God does allow you to see the end of a waiting season, should it change your faith or should your faith already be ready to accept the outcome no matter what?
- Waiting can be difficult. *In Keeping Hope Alive*, Lewis Smedes writes, “Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hope for, we wait in darkness for a flame we cannot light. We wait in fear for a happy ending we cannot write, and we hope for a ‘not yet’ that feels like a ‘not ever.’ Waiting is the hardest work of hope.” If Simeon and Anna had waited their entire lives for the Messiah but never able to witness Him, how do you think it would have impacted their faith? What can we learn from them?
- As an adult, how are you waiting this Christmas? Eagerly? Anxiously? Excitedly? Reference Luke 2:25, “At the time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon Him.”
- Paul noted, “Simeon and Anna prepared for their lives to be filled with contentment.” In a society that is always emphasis for us to have more and move faster, how do we learn to slow down and be content in all situations, especially during the busyness of the Christmas season?

Resources

Book: *Keeping Hope Alive* by Lewis Smedes

Book: *Waiting Here for You: An Advent Journey of Hope* by Louie Giglio

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.