

# MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

## MAIN POINT.

Jesus is the One we've waited for to restore us and save us.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

Simeon praised God when he saw Jesus, recognizing Him as the promise for which Israel had longed. Simeon also prophesied that many would oppose Jesus. Jesus came to His people, but they did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God (John 1:11-12).



# EXPECTING WHILE WAITING

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

Luke 2:1-40

## WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR JESUS

### LUKE 2:25-35

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

## WAIT FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS

### LUKE 2:36-40

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

# BEFORE YOU TEACH

## MAIN POINT.

Jesus is the One we've waited for to restore us and save us.

Leaders: As you wait for the Lord, position yourself to hear His voice, and expect Him to move.

## BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

### WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR JESUS

#### LUKE 2:25

“This refers to the consolation that would be brought about by the inauguration of the messianic age. Compare Luke 2:26, where this consolation is described as ‘seeing the Lord’s Christ.’ For Luke this referred not to the fulfillment of Jewish political hopes involving deliverance from their enemies and restoration of David’s throne but rather to the salvation Jesus brought.”<sup>5</sup>

#### LUKE 2:28-35

“Two chapters into Luke, we know what to expect from Jesus. He is son of his parents and Son of his Father. He is good news, gospel, joy, Savior, Messiah, Lord God, cause of amazement and wonder, one who fulfills every clause of the Law, full-fledged member of the covenant people Israel. He is the source of comfort and consolation for which Israel waited, the promised bringer of salvation, the light giving revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Israel, the fulfillment of God’s promised redemption. More ominously, he is the source of falling and rising, the target of sneers and rejection, the revelation of the true thoughts and belief of Israel, the cause of a heart-piercing pain for his mother.”<sup>6</sup>

#### LUKE 2:34-35

“Simeon sees the salvation from the Lord in his arms, and he glimpses Calvary as well. In time, the poor will be lifted up and the wealthy, powerful religious leaders will fall. In time, this child will grow and an entire nation—an entire world!—will have to decide to either follow him or oppose him. Hearts will be revealed. God will see. Condemnation and salvation will come in one Savior sacrificed on a cross.”<sup>7</sup>

### WAIT FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS

#### LUKE 2:37

“[Anna] was a person who plainly knew and loved God. She had developed her spiritual life over many years and was faithful in her devotional life, communing regularly with God in both public and private worship. She was sensitive to the direction of God and lived in expectation of the promised messianic deliverance. Like Simeon, she knew how to praise God and was able to share her faith openly with others, speaking in the Temple to ‘all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.’”<sup>8</sup>

# CONTEXT

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Leviticus 12 helps us understand Mary and Joseph's actions after Jesus's birth. The Mosaic law required all males to be dedicated to the Lord on the eighth day through circumcision, an outward expression of being set apart as God's chosen people. For thirty-three days after the birth of a male, the mother also took part in purification requirements. At the end of the allotted time, the baby would then be presented at the temple, accompanied by the sacrifice of a lamb. In Jesus's case, the sacrifice wasn't a lamb but two turtledoves or two pigeons, indicating that Mary and Joseph weren't wealthy.

**Qâvâh:** Hebrew word meaning to wait; "to bind together (by twisting), to expect:—gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon)."<sup>9</sup> The word implies waiting with tension, like a cord pulled tight, stretched in anticipation. This waiting is active, not passive, and is referenced in Isaiah 40:31—a waiting that renews strength rather than draining it.

## THEOLOGY CONNECTION

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### God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired people to write the Scriptures and enables people to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls people to the Savior and gives them new life. At the moment of salvation, He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ.

### LEADERS' PRAYER

**GOD, HELP US TO WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR YOU TO MOVE IN OUR LIVES AND IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS. HELP US TO POSITION OURSELVES TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AND TO FOLLOW YOU IN OBEDIENCE. WE LOOK FORWARD BECAUSE WE HAVE CERTAIN HOPE IN JESUS.**

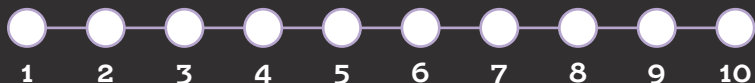




## KICK STARTER

### RATE IT!

How patient are you when waiting for something you really want (1=Hurry this up; 10=I have all day)?



These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.

# 1

## OPEN EYES

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses:

- **WHAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING YOU MISSED BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION?**
- **WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WITNESSED THAT OTHERS MISSED BECAUSE YOU HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME?**
- **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS WE MISS OUT ON IF WE AREN'T EXPECTING THEM?**

Sometimes, we miss out on really amazing experiences because we weren't ready; we weren't alert or watchful or paying attention. While this can be disappointing, we can learn something valuable to apply to our walk with God: We will see more of God when we look for Him, when we seek Him, when we expect Him.

# 2

## CULTURAL CONNECTION

What is hope? We use the word fairly often, even casually. We hope school gets canceled on a snow day. We hope to pass our math test. We hope someone asks us to a school dance. We hope our future turns out okay. When we express our hopes, we leave some wiggle room for disappointment. We hope for what we want, but many of us don't fully allow ourselves to believe it will happen. But hope is a confident expectation, and for believers, hope is certain. We don't have to wonder if we'll be okay; we don't have to wonder if we'll spend eternity with God. Because we have hope that is certain in Jesus. We don't have to leave wiggle room for the possibility of hope failing us. We don't have to protect ourselves from disappointment. Jesus is our living Hope (1 Pet. 1:3). He lived, died, and rose again exactly as He said He would. We can trust His promise that He has gone to the Father to prepare a place for us (John 14:2-3). We can trust God's promise to be with us until we arrive there and to work all things for our good—knowing Him more deeply (Rom. 8:28). Our minds and hearts can rest because our hope is secure.

# DISCUSSION

## MAIN POINT.

Jesus is the One we've waited for to restore us and save us.

### WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR JESUS

READ LUKE 2:25-35



#### HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RECEIVE OR SEE SOMETHING YOU'VE WAITED FOR?

Maybe you waited for a visit from a friend who moved away. Maybe you waited for the day you could get your driver's license or for a championship game. When the time finally came, you were overcome with joy, gratitude, and excitement. When we wait for something—when we long for it—we feel more excitement when it happens.

**Expectancy makes us more aware. We look for the thing that's coming. In our walk with God, we can wait and look for Him with expectancy too.** We can expect Him to show up, to move, to speak. And we'll be filled with joy, gratitude, and excitement when He does.



#### HOW DID SIMEON RECOGNIZE JESUS SO EASILY? WHAT DOES THIS SHOW ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES?

The Holy Spirit had not yet come because Jesus had not ascended to heaven, but the Spirit did come to certain people for specific times and purposes (Ex. David). The Holy Spirit was on Simeon (v. 25). He sought God and positioned himself to hear God's voice, and he believed what God said: He wouldn't die until he saw the Messiah. The Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple to see Jesus, and he obeyed because he believed! **Without the leading of the Spirit, Simeon wouldn't have encountered Jesus, and neither will we. He leads us now—drawing us to Jesus, convicting us of sin, showing us truth, and guiding us in wisdom.**



#### HOW CAN WE BE MORE EXPECTANT FOR JESUS IN OUR DAILY LIVES? WHY DON'T WE LONG TO "SEE" HIM THE WAY SIMEON DID?

Simeon expected to see the Messiah because he believed God. **He believed God because he knew God.** Imagine if Simeon didn't know God. He may have disregarded God's promise. He may have forgotten it because he was too busy or distracted by the world. He may have doubted if he heard God's voice correctly. Imagine if he simply didn't believe. **Maybe we don't long for or expect to see Jesus because we don't believe God; we don't believe God because we haven't invested time to know Him.** Because if we know Him—really know Him—we'll believe Him. **When we spend time with God by daily reading our Bibles, praying, and worshiping, we live more expectantly. Why? We position ourselves to know God more intimately.** He speaks to us through His Word and His Spirit dwelling within us, which are always in agreement, never contradicting one another. He leads us and prompts us. We begin to expect Him, to be more aware of His presence. We get to know God. Knowing Him helps us to believe His promises, remembering every one because we aren't too busy or distracted by other voices. We're able to dispel doubt because we recognize God's voice with certainty. Imagine simply believing God because you know Him. Imagine all you'd see.

## WAIT FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS

READ LUKE 2:36-40

### WHAT ARE WAYS WE WASTE TIME INSTEAD OF USING IT WISELY? WHY DO WE DO THIS?

Let's all be honest: Wasting time is a temptation because it's so easy to do. God commanded us to make the most of our time (Eph. 5:16), but many of us waste time because it takes less effort. We numb out by scrolling social media, playing video games, watching television, and so on. **Rather than looking for ways to serve God and others, we serve ourselves. We give in to the desire to be lazy and call it de-stressing. We justify wasting time in the name of self-care. Before we know it, we miss opportunities to grow closer to Jesus and to help others grow closer to Him.** Sure, we must listen to our bodies and know when to rest because God designed us with the need to pause. But we must do so without using it as an excuse. We can honor God's command to rest while also paying attention to how we live and spending our time wisely (Eph. 5:15).



### WHY DO YOU THINK ANNA SPENT SO MUCH OF HER LIFE AT THE TEMPLE?

Scholars believe Anna was either eighty-four years old or well over a hundred years old. Either way, Anna lived for many years as a widow after only seven years of marriage. Think about how she could've lived her days—bitterly, grief-ridden, angrily accusing God of ruining her plans. Anna took a different path; she devoted her life to God's work. As a prophetess, Anna remained closely connected to God to hear His voice. **Her public and private lives were centered on the Lord; her service was an overflow of seeking God privately.** Like us, Anna had a choice: What would she spend her life on? She chose to spend every minute wisely. Why? **Anna's hope was in a coming redemption, not in earthly comforts. She believed, and her belief dictated her days.**

### HOW DOES ANNA'S REACTION TO SEEING JESUS COMPARE TO OUR REACTION TO GETTING TO KNOW JESUS?

Anna arrived as Simeon encountered Jesus, and she instantly knew He was the promised Messiah. In response, she told everyone who had also been looking forward to His coming. The Jews had been waiting, longing, and hoping for freedom from Roman rule. But Jesus would bring a much greater freedom—freedom from sin and death! **As believers, we've experienced this freedom; we get to know Jesus! Like Anna, we should joyfully and boldly share the gospel with others.**

## WRAP-UP



### WHAT DID BOTH SIMEON AND ANNA DO WITH THEIR WAITING? WHAT DOES THIS SHOW YOU ABOUT HOW TO WAIT FOR THE LORD?

We don't know when the Holy Spirit revealed the promise to Simeon, so we don't know how long he waited to see it fulfilled. But we *do* know that Simeon spent his days knowing God. Simeon was devout, committed, righteous, and "looking forward" to the promise. He was watchful. Anna worshiped and served while she waited. She committed all of her days to the Lord instead of wasting them on bitterness and self-pity. And for both Simeon and Anna, the waiting was worth it. Their waiting wasn't wasted, and it wasn't passive. They waited actively. Maybe you're waiting on one of God's promises. Sometimes, God's good promises feel far away, and we allow discouragement or apathy to settle into our hearts and minds. **But if we will wait with purpose—if we will seek to know, worship, and serve God and to look forward—then we won't miss Him when He moves and speaks and leads us.** He promises that we'll find Him when we seek Him with all our heart (Jer. 29:13). **Waiting isn't wasted time; it is precious time to grow in our faith.**