



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Luke 2:25-35 “The Uncomfortable Gift”

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

What wisdom have you gained from someone older than you? (friend, relative, grandparent etc...)?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

Why do you think this passage gets omitted from the “Christmas story”, or not even considered a part of the story? In other words, why don’t we have a “statue” of Simeon holding Jesus in our nativity scenes?

Why does Luke record this account of Simeon, Mary, Joseph and Jesus? What does this account affirm about Jesus and accurately predict about the future of this child? (ie What does Simeon “get right” about the coming of the Messiah that others miss?)

In what way has Jesus been a uncomfortable gift to you, that pierced your soul, cause the fall or rising of your spiritual life? What area of your life may Jesus be causing some discomfort? Someone to forgive, to love outside you comfort zone, to seek forgiveness, to finally share your story of coming to Jesus, etc...?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Luke 2:25-35]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Who was Simeon? (2:25-27)

How did Luke describe the man named Simeon? (2:25-32)

What did Simeon do with the Christ child? (2:28-32)

What special significance did Christ’s arrival have for Simeon? (2:26-29)

How did Simeon’s prophecy point out that Christ would be the Savior for the world? (2:32)

What did Joseph and Mary do after they heard what Simeon had to say? (2:33)

To whom did Simeon address his second statement about Jesus? (2:34-35)

What did Simeon say to Mary? (2:34-35)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what ways can we see God working behind the scenes in the events of Christ’s childhood?

What of Simeon’s prophecy is still true today?

What did Simeon's warning to Mary mean?

If you could step back in time and stand next to Simeon, what would you want to say or ask about the Christ child?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?