

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## CHRISTMAS WEEK 2

### The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem

Luke 2:21–38



## DAY 1

Law-abiding parents testified that Jesus is Savior • Luke 2:21–24

### READ

Luke 2:21–24

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:21–24

Have you made a decision about the meaning of Christmas? Everyone must think about it and decide, because you cannot ignore trustworthy witnesses (Deut 19:15). Jesus' own parents testify that Jesus is Savior. First, they named Him Jesus, which means "God saves," confirming that Jesus was born to "save His people from their sins" (Luke 2:21; Matt 1:21). Second, they circumcised Jesus according to God's command to Abraham (Luke 2:21; Gen 17:12–13). This shows that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham who will fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant by restoring all Israel to their God (Gal 3:16; Isa 49:5). Jesus' circumcision also identified Him with sinful people (Deut 10:16; Ps 51:5; Col 2:11). Although Jesus was sinless (Luke 1:35; 1 Pet 2:22), He came as a human to bear the sins of humans (John 1:29). Third, they dedicated Jesus to God (Luke 2:22). Although all firstborns were to be dedicated (Exod 13:1–2, 12–15), Jesus was especially set apart to do God's will (Matt 5:17; Gal 4:4). So Jesus' parents testified that their baby was set apart to provide salvation from sin. Do you believe their testimony?

### ASK

1. What does Jesus mean?  
*God saves*
2. How did Jesus' parents show that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham?  
*By circumcising Jesus according to God's command to Abraham.*
3. How was Jesus especially set apart for God?  
*His whole life would satisfy the righteous demands of the Law.*

### DISCUSS

1. According to the Old Testament, if two or three witnesses agreed, then the judge had to consider their testimony (Deut 19:15). Why is it wise to require more than one witness?
2. Have you decided what Christmas is really about? How would you explain it to someone else?

## DAY 2

Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 1 • Luke 2:25

### READ

Luke 2:25

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:25

What kind of person would you believe? Would you believe a man like Simeon? Simeon was righteous, a man of true faith (Luke 2:25; Gen 15:6). He was also *devout, thoughtful and careful to live according to God's commands*. He had godly *hope*, because he had *confident expectation that God would keep His promises*. He was also sensitive to God, yielding to the special influence of the Holy Spirit in his life. So you can trust Simeon's testimony. Then what did Simeon say? He said Jesus was Israel's *consolation* (Luke 2:25). Because of Israel's rebellion and apostasy, Israel has suffered greatly, as the prophets predicted. But the prophets also promised *comfort, encouragement, and relief* (Isa 40:1-2) when God Himself would come to save and care for His people Israel (40:9-11). This prophecy began to be fulfilled during Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 4:18-21), but it won't be completely fulfilled until all Israel looks to Him and finally accepts Jesus as their Messiah and Savior (Zech 12:10; 14:11; Rom 11:26). Until then, the offer is made to you too: will you believe Simeon and find comfort in Jesus?

### ASK

1. Who was Simeon waiting for?  
*The consolation of Israel: someone to give comfort and relief from sin and the curse.*
2. Why has Israel suffered greatly since Simeon's testimony?  
*Because they rejected the Messiah.*
3. When will Simeon's words be completely fulfilled?  
*When all Israel finally accepts Jesus as the Messiah and Savior.*

### DISCUSS

1. How does Simeon's character give you confidence that his testimony is true? When you tell others about Jesus, does your character give people confidence that your testimony is true?
2. What are some hard things happening in your life? Does Jesus give you comfort in these things (2 Cor 4:16)? Do you have joy as you look forward to greater comfort to come (Rev 21:4)?

## DAY 3

Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 2 • Luke 2:26-30

### READ

Luke 2:26-30

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:26-30

Last time, Simeon said Jesus is the consolation of Israel. Now he adds that Jesus is the Lord's *Messiah* (Luke 2:26), *the anointed one appointed by God both to save and to rule*. Then Simeon rejoiced that Jesus is God's salvation (Luke 2:30). *Salvation* is a broad term, the *complete undoing of sin and the curse* that first came into the world in Genesis 3. Jesus is called God's

salvation because God alone is able to save sinners (Isa 45:21-22). So when Jesus was born, God Himself became a man to live a sinless life (Rom 5:19), die to pay the penalty for sin (1 Pet 3:18), and rise again to conquer death (Rom 6:9). One day He will return (Rev 19), reign over the earth (Rev 20), and establish the New Creation (Rev 21-22). If you believe, then this is when your salvation will be complete, when you will be a perfect person living in God's perfect presence on a perfect Earth, just like you were designed to do from the beginning (Rev 21:1-22:5; Gen 1:26-28).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did the Holy Spirit promise Simeon he would see before his death?  
*The Messiah (Luke 2:26).*
2. What does “Messiah” mean?  
*The one appointed by God to save and to rule.*
3. What did Simeon say his eyes had seen?  
*God’s “salvation” (Luke 2:30).*
4. What does it mean that Jesus came to save?  
*It means that He came to completely overcome sin and undo sin’s curse.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How did God keep His promise that Simeon would see God’s salvation? What promises has God made to you? Can you trust Him?
2. How is salvation an undoing of the curse that first came into the world in Genesis 3? Are you excited to see this happen someday? Does this change the way you think and act now?

**DAY 4***Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 3 • Luke 2:31–35***READ** 

Luke 2:31–35

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Luke 2:31–35**

Simeon has even more to say! This time, Simeon rejoices that Jesus came to save both Jews and **Gentiles** (Luke 2:31–32). Even believing Jews were shocked that salvation could come to non-Jews, but this was something promised long ago (Gen 12:3). To show how great Jesus is, God made Him Savior not just of Israel but of the whole world (Isa 49:6)! But Simeon warned that Jesus was destined for conflict (Luke 2:34–35; cf. 12:51). Although He brings salvation, He also brings justice. He causes some to rise and others to fall, depending on whether they humbly repent or not. So a lot of people do not like Jesus because He exposes their unbelief and sin (John 3:19). What do you think? Will you love Him even for revealing your sin? Believe Simeon’s testimony: Jesus was born for Israel, but also for the whole world. He was born to save, but He was also born to be rejected, suffering and dying at the hands of wicked men. He was born to be the sacrificial sin offering but also the sovereign judge of all. Is this the Jesus you follow?

**ASK** 

1. Who did Simeon say Jesus would be?  
*He said Jesus would be a light for all nations*
2. How would Jesus be a light for all the nations?  
*He would provide salvation to all people, both Jew and Gentile.*
3. Would everyone welcome Jesus as the Messiah?  
Why not?  
*No. Most people would hate Him because He exposes the sin in their hearts (John 3:19).*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you ever tried to hide it when you did something bad? What happens if you don’t let Jesus expose your sin (John 3:18–21)?
2. Have people ever been upset at you for saying true things about Jesus? Even when you speak with gentleness and love, will there be people who do not like it when you talk about Jesus?

## DAY 5

Prophetess Anna testified that Jesus is Savior • Luke 2:36–39

### READ

Luke 2:36–39

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:36–39

In case you aren't convinced yet, here's a third witness. Anna was very, very old, probably over 100 years old. She was a prophetess devoted to prayer, so you can trust her. She called Jesus the **redemption** of Jerusalem, the One who would rescue and deliver Jerusalem. God had made Jerusalem His city (1 Kings 11:36), so He promised to redeem both the city and the people it represented (Isa 52:9; Rev 21:10). But few Jews realized that this redemption would be expensive. It would cost the precious blood of a perfect lamb (Isa 52:13–53:12; 1 Pet 1:19). Have you been redeemed? Are you thankful for the price that was paid for your soul? And now, after hearing the testimony of Jesus' parents, Simeon, and Anna, do you embrace Jesus as the certain answer to all of your hopes and fears? Do you realize who the baby in Mary's arms was born for? Jesus will restore Israel, rescue all nations, crush the wicked, rule the earth, and undo the curse. In the end, His glory will shine through the New Jerusalem to the great delight of all the redeemed (Rev 21:23).

### ASK

1. Who was Anna?  
*She was a very old prophetess and widow. She prayed and fasted all the time.*
2. What did Anna say Jesus would do?  
*She said He would rescue Jerusalem.*
3. How would Jesus provide redemption?  
*He would pay the price of His own blood to set sinners free from sin and death.*
4. Why did God provide many different witnesses to testify concerning Jesus?  
*To prove who Jesus really was, to prove what He would really do, and to prove that you must believe that He is the Savior.*

### DISCUSS

1. If you have been redeemed at such great cost, how should this affect your behavior (1 Pet 1:16–19)?
2. What do you hope for? What are you afraid of? How is Jesus the answer to all your hopes and fears?

## NEXT WEEK

The Son of Man is identified in the temple

Luke 2:39–52

