



# Home for Christmas

LEGACY CHURCH

# **INTRO**

*in subsets if needed  
(15 min)*

## **CARE**

Looking back on the last week,  
what is one thing for which you're thankful  
and one thing for which we can pray?

Pray.

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## **FOCUS**

Today we're placing our attention on Luke 2:21-38.  
Here we discover the importance of waiting for God.

Focus your time and attention on helping the group understand

- a) the example set by Simeon and Anna.
- b) the importance of waiting patiently for God.
- c) how God's faithfulness can give us hope as we wait.

# READ

*and re-read*

## Luke 2:21-38

[21] And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

[22] And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord [23] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") [24] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." [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."

[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. (ESV)

# DISCUSS

(30 min)

| 1 |

What are the main ideas of this passage?

| 2 |

In our passage today we meet two individuals who in many ways embody the posture of Israel for hundreds of years. They eagerly awaited the Messiah.

Have you ever experienced great anticipation as you waited for something?  
What makes waiting so difficult?

| 3 |

What strikes you about Simeon?  
Similarly, what strikes you about Anna?

| 4 |

What can we learn about waiting on God from these two characters?  
What does their age teach us about patience and endurance as we wait?

| 5 |

This Messiah may not have been exactly what Simeon and Anna were thinking He'd be. He certainly wasn't what others hoped He would be, lacking characteristics they expected in a Messiah. Likewise, sometimes God answers our prayers in ways we weren't expecting or even hoping for.

How can we wait with the openness necessary to let God answer in the way He chooses?  
What does it take on our behalf to wait with that kind of openness?

| 6 |

Is there anything you're waiting for right now?  
Are there any prayers that you're waiting for God to answer?  
*(Perhaps we could take a moment to pray along with you)*  
Are there any prayers you waited for and God answered in one way or another?

# *OBEY*

*(10 min)*

**| 1 |**

Are there any principles to apply or commands to obey from our passages today?

**| 2 |**

Is there something you need to do  
- and/or -  
someone you need to tell in response to what you've learned today?

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Prayer of Commission

