

## Next Steps:

For 2020, THIS will change ...

- My relationship with Jesus by:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My relationship with this church by:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My relationship with my family by:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My relationship with people who don't trust Christianity  
by: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse – Luke 2:34

*<sup>34</sup>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 ...*



## What Does THIS Change?

**Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

## Open

1. When you were growing up, what teacher, coach, or relative made you feel special?
2. What did they do to make you feel valuable?

## Joseph and Mary: A Righteous Family 22-24

1. What laws from the Torah did Joseph and Mary obey when they presented Jesus in the temple?  
(See Leviticus 12:1-8; Exodus 13:2; Numbers 18:15-16)
2. What does this tell you about Joseph and Mary?

## Simeon: A Righteous Man 25-26

1. What does Luke tell us about Simeon's character?
2. What was Simeon waiting for?
3. What had the Holy Spirit revealed to him?
4. How do you think Simeon expected this prophecy to be fulfilled?

## Simeon's Song 27-33

1. How did Simeon recognize the baby Jesus?
2. What does Simeon say about ...
  - the mission of Jesus?
  - the Gentiles?
  - Israel?
3. What do you think caused Joseph and Mary to marvel at Simeon's song?

## Simeon's Blessing 34-35

1. What do you think Simeon means when he says that Jesus is "appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel"?
2. In what ways was Jesus opposed in his life?
3. In what ways is Jesus opposed today?

## Anna: A Righteous Woman 36-38

1. What does Luke tell us about Anna's life and character?
2. What were the people waiting for?
3. How does Anna complement Simeon's prophecy and blessing?

## Joseph, Mary, and Jesus: A Righteous Family 39-40

1. What do we learn about Jesus and his family?

## Reflect

1. What impact did the words of Simeon and Anna have that day ...
  - on those who heard?
  - on Joseph and Mary?
  - on Jesus?
2. What impact do they have on people today?
3. Simeon speaks of the universal availability of God's salvation, and the opposition it will raise. Why do you think people oppose God's salvation?
4. In what ways have you resisted God's salvation?
5. What is your main take-away from this story?