

MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

unit 19 | session 2



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 dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Luke 2:1-39

WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR JESUS

LUKE 2:25-35

25 There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, 29 "Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation. 31 You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel." 33 His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed—35 and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

WAIT FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS

LUKE 2:36-40

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. 38 At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him.

MAIN POINT.

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



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

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.

DISCUSSION

WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR JESUS

LUKE 2:25-35

- ♥ • How does it feel to receive or see something you've waited for?
- 📖 • How did Simeon recognize Jesus so easily? What does this show about the Holy Spirit's role in our lives?
- ✝ • How can we be more expectant for Jesus in our daily lives? Why don't we long to "see" Him the way Simeon did?

WAIT FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS

LUKE 2:36-40

- What are ways we waste time instead of using it wisely? Why do we do this?
- 👤 • Why do you think Anna spent so much of her life at the temple?
- How does Anna's reaction to seeing Jesus compare to our reaction to getting to know Jesus?



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

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.



DAY ONE

PSALM 42:1-2



Have you ever gotten exactly what you wanted, only to realize it wasn't what you wanted at all? What an odd feeling to be in possession of what you thought you wanted and still feel as if something is missing. If we're not careful, our hearts can play tricks on us, leading us to believe we want, even need, things that don't satisfy us at all. All the while, the things we truly need are pushed aside and easily overlooked.

Often, this is exactly what happens in our relationship with God. We allow the things of this world to become what we long for, and in doing so, we overlook our deep need for an intimate relationship with Jesus. We let our hearts desire things like achievement, praise and approval of people, and material possessions. The problem is that none of these things can truly satisfy us and only leave us feeling empty, searching for the next thing we "have to have."

Just as deer long for the refreshing waters of a flowing stream, so our souls long for God. We must remind ourselves that what we truly want is what only God can give, that what our souls really need is deep intimacy and connection with our Creator. We can ask God to help us want to want Him—to help us desire to desire Him. This confusion we feel over what we want and need is why we must allow the Bible to direct every part of our lives. Rather than letting culture or the fleeting desires of our hearts dictate what we long for, we must allow the truth of God's Word to shape the longing of our souls. We do this by choosing to pursue Him through things like prayer, worship, studying Scripture, and being in community with other believers. When we do, we're not only reminded of what we truly need, but we also find what we truly need.

- **WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY DESIRE THAT IS NOT GOD? HOW IS THAT DESIRE DECEIVING YOU TO THINK IT WILL SATISFY YOU?**
- **WHAT ARE WAYS THAT YOU CAN SEEK GOD AND SET THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART ON HIM THIS WEEK?**

PRAY

GOD, SHOW ME WHAT I AM LONGING FOR OTHER THAN YOU. THANK YOU, GOD, THAT YOU SATISFY COMPLETELY. AS I SEEK YOU, HELP ME EXPERIENCE THE DEEP SATISFACTION ONLY YOU BRING.



DAY TWO

PSALM 63

Some things only God can do. Only God can give us divine strength. Only Jesus can save us from our sins. Only the Holy Spirit can shed light on the Scriptures so we can understand them. But God has entrusted some things to us—things He has given us the ability and responsibility to do.

One of those responsibilities is directing our thoughts toward Him. Against popular belief, we don't have to let our thoughts run wild and rule our lives. We can choose what we think about. Scripture tells us to set our minds on things above (Col. 3:2) and to dwell on what is pure and lovely (Phil. 4:8). Just like you would pick up an object and set it in a specific place, we can take our thoughts and intentionally set them on God. This is what the Bible refers to as "meditating" on Him. To meditate on God is to think deeply and continuously about Him in worship and pursuit of Him. King David described the way he earnestly sought after God by saying he looked for Him in the sanctuary and meditated on Him during the night (vv. 2,6). We can meditate on God just like David did when we do things like studying and memorizing Scripture, calling out to God in prayer, and lifting our voices to Him in praise.

Studying and memorizing Scripture fills our hearts and minds with God's Word. Prayer focuses our thoughts on Him. Praise helps us remember and respond to God's goodness and the ways He blesses our lives. While these aren't the only ways to meditate on God, they form the foundation for setting our minds on Him.

- **WHERE DOES YOUR MIND GO TO THE MOST: WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE, YOUR TO-DO LIST, YOUR WANTS?**
- **HOW WOULD YOUR DAILY LIFE CHANGE IF YOU SET YOUR MIND ON GOD? WHAT ARE PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN DO THIS?**

PRAY

**GOD, I WANT TO HAVE A MIND THAT IS SET ON YOU.
I DON'T WANT MY THOUGHTS TO RULE MY LIFE; I
WANT YOU TO RULE MY THOUGHTS. I CHOOSE TO
SET MY MIND ON YOU AND MEDITATE ON YOU.**



DAY THREE

JOHN 1:10-13

Have you ever missed something that was right in front of you? You're looking for it, searching everywhere, and suddenly, there it is, right in front of you. It had been there the whole time; you just didn't see it. In today's passage, we read that although God's people had been waiting and looking for the Messiah, they missed Him when He came. When Jesus came, His people didn't recognize Him; because they didn't recognize Him, they didn't receive Him (vv. 10-11).

How could God's people not see Jesus for who He was? Because He didn't come the way they expected. They imagined their Messiah arriving in a spectacular display, with all the splendor of royalty. Instead, Jesus was born in humility to an ordinary family. Yes, Jesus's birth was supernatural, but it wasn't spectacular. He was born in a cave or stable, wrapped in cloths likely used for animals, and laid in a manger where livestock ate (Luke 2:7). This was not the arrival they pictured, so they didn't see Jesus for who He was—the Messiah.

If we're not careful, we can make the same mistake. We often have our own expectations for how God will show up in our lives. But God is not bound by our expectations. Like Jesus did then, He often works in unexpected ways.

If we don't want to miss God's work, we must learn to look for Him in the unexpected places of our lives. It may not always look spectacular, but if we will learn to look, then we will experience His love and presence in a real way each day.

- **WHAT ARE OTHER REASONS YOU THINK PEOPLE MISSED JESUS WHEN HE CAME? HOW CAN WE AVOID MAKING THESE SAME MISTAKES?**
- **HAS GOD EVER SHOWED UP IN YOUR LIFE IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY? WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM THAT EXPERIENCE?**

PRAY

**JESUS, HELP ME TO SEE YOU AT WORK IN MY LIFE.
HELP ME NEVER TO MISS A MOMENT OF YOUR
PRESENCE, HOWEVER ORDINARY IT MAY SEEM.**



DAY FOUR

ISAIAH 11:1-5

Have you ever considered why you believe what you believe? You're convinced of it—but why? The Bible teaches that faith comes from what we hear (Rom. 10:17). Belief in our hearts begins with what we hear and receive as truth. This is why the Bible is such an important part of our lives—the primary way we hear truth about who God is, what He is like, and what He desires for us. As we hear the truth about God, faith begins to grow in our hearts toward Him. Not only does the Bible help our faith to grow, but it also stirs us to live in anticipation and expectation of God working in our lives.

Today's passage gives us a great example of this idea. We see a prophetic picture of who Jesus would be, what He would do, and what He would be like. Scriptures like these were received as truth and caused faith to rise in the hearts of those who waited in anticipation for the coming Messiah. One such person was Anna, a prophetess who served God continually with fasting and prayer as she waited for the Messiah (Luke 2:36-38). Anna lived in anticipation and expectation because she had heard and received the truth of what had been written—and that truth produced faith in her heart.

Reading God's Word is crucial—not casually, but with a heart ready to receive the truth about who God is, what He is like, and what He wants for us. Devoting our time and attention to the Word will strengthen our faith and help us to live in anticipation for what He will do.

- **DO YOU READ YOUR BIBLE? WHY OR WHY NOT? HOW COULD READING YOUR BIBLE CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE GOD AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT HIM?**
- **CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME SOMETHING IN THE BIBLE CAUSED YOU TO SEE GOD IN A NEW WAY OR CHANGED WHAT YOU BELIEVED ABOUT HIM?**

PRAY

**GOD, STIR MY HEART TO HUNGER FOR YOUR WORD,
CAUSING MY FAITH AND MY EXPECTATION OF YOUR
WORK IN MY LIFE TO INCREASE.**





DAY FIVE

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Have you ever wanted to quit because something seemed too hard? Life can be full of challenges that we must push through and overcome. Jesus warned us about this inescapable reality when He said that we will have trouble in this life (John 16:33). He guaranteed that no one will get through life without facing hard times. Thankfully, Jesus didn't stop there. He went on to say that we can be encouraged and find strength in the middle of these hard times because He will be with us, and He has overcome the world.

Today's passage encourages us to follow the example of those who came before us and to run after Jesus with endurance. Endurance is the ability to keep going when you feel like quitting, the determination not to give up. The Bible is full of stories about men and women who, instead of walking away, chose to trust God and endure. These men and women are recorded in what some call the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. Now, these faithful men and women cheer us on from heaven, showing us what it looks like to keep going.

God gave us His written Word to teach us, give us hope, and show us how to endure to the end (Rom. 15:4). This is not limited to His promises but includes accounts of people who are now our examples. God kept His promises to them, and He has not changed (Heb. 13:8). So, let's look to God and to the examples He has given us, and no matter what we face, let's keep running with our eyes fixed on Jesus (v. 2).

- **HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE THAT MADE YOU WANT TO QUIT? HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THAT?**
- **IN WHAT WAYS DO THE EXAMPLES WE HAVE IN THE BIBLE HELP US TO PURSUE JESUS WITH ENDURANCE?**

PRAY

GOD, NO MATTER WHAT I FACE, I CHOOSE TO ENDURE, TO KEEP RUNNING THE GOOD RACE OF FAITH. STRENGTHEN ME WITH YOUR WORD AND YOUR SPIRIT. HELP ME TO FOLLOW THE FAITHFUL EXAMPLES YOU'VE GIVEN ME.