

# Crossway Life Group, Week of December 29

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

## Community

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Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

## Scripture: Luke 2:21-40 Sermon: "Faith in God's Faithfulness"

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### Reading & Discussing Scripture

- **Read Luke 2:21-24.** Luke highlights how Mary and Joseph followed the commands of God. Given that the start of Christianity at the birth of Jesus was an important transition from Old Testament Judaism, why might Luke have emphasized this obedience?
- **Read Luke 2:25-40.** What does the text tell us about people's expectations for God's work? What were Simeon and Anna (and others with them) waiting for?
- The text also highlights the activity of the Holy Spirit. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit's role in these events?
- Simeon also speaks of challenge that was connected with Jesus' life and ministry. Why might it have been important for that warning to be included from the beginning of Jesus' life?
- What is emphasized about Anna? Why is that important?

### The Big Idea

**God is working out His plan  
to bring Salvation and wholeness  
to people from every tribe and nation  
across generations, across each lifetime, and within each day**

### Application & Reflection Questions

- The sermon emphasized that the Holy Spirit speaks through the Bible, across generations, and day to day. What are some examples of how the Holy Spirit has spoken to you or others in these three ways?
- What does hope-filled "waiting" with head, heart, and hands look like for you? The sermon emphasized that "waiting" includes watching and listening [head], trusting rather than worrying [heart], and obeying even when it is hard to see how that obedience matters [hands].
- **Read Ecclesiastes 3:11.** How does this verse help us have good expectations for what it is like to follow God's ways?
- What steps will you take to be more active in your waiting upon God?

## Growing in Cultural Understanding

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Some cultures emphasize long-term thinking and others emphasize short-term thinking. Which emphasis is more natural for you? What are some benefits and drawbacks of each emphasis?

## Serving beyond ourselves

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What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

Please **pray for our church's nominating committee** as they consider the people who have been recommended by the congregation. You can learn more about recommending people to be considered by going to <https://crosswaymchurch.org/members/nominating-committee/> (password cmc-family).

## Luke 2:21-40

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

### Jesus Presented in the Temple

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

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

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by 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; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

## Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.