**1. Motivate**

What has happened in your lifetime that you never thought you’d see? What has amazed you?

A video introduction for the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_xqzl5l5m> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8d7sya>

* graphing calculators
* flat screen TV
* on demand video
* GPS in cars
* cell phones (like Dick Tracy’s wrist radio)
* internet
* computer and projector in each classroom
* current political scene - intolerance

**2. Transition**

Mary and Joseph were experiencing amazing events in their lives.

* They met a man who told them their baby was the One that many people thought they’d never see.
* Their baby son would reveal God’s glory and love

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Promise to Simeon

Listen for a revelation.

Luke 2:25-27a (NIV) 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 upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

How did Luke describe the man named Simeon? What spiritual characteristics are attributed to Simeon?

* lived in Jerusalem
* a righteous man
* devout (sincere, devoted, dedicated, fervent)
* waiting for the consolation (comfort, relief) of Israel

What revelation had he received from the Holy Spirit?

* he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ
* he would live to see the promised Messiah

*How* do you think the Spirit told him these things?

* maybe reading an Old Testament prophecy
* a dream
* a very strong and definite mental impression
* even an audible voice
* an angel messenger

What characteristics of his life do you think contributed to his being described as “righteous and devout?”

* made right choices, did the right thing
* put God first in his life
* appeared to faithfully obey all the commandments
* on spiritual issues, he had wise counsel
* probably knew well what the Old Testament scriptures taught

In what ways can we see God working behind the scenes in the events of Christ’s childhood?

* Simeon was a godly, devout man whom God had prepared
* God had given him special revelation
* God prompted him to be at the temple courts on the same day Mary and Joseph came with the baby Jesus for dedication an purification ceremonies

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

* convict/convince us of our specific spiritual needs
* encouragement
* warnings
* guidance in major decisions

How does the Holy Spirit influence how you see and approach the future?

* through the Scripture
* convict/convince us of our specific spiritual needs
* encouragement
* warnings
* guidance in major decisions

3.2 Prophecy of Light

Listen for prophecy about Baby Jesus.

Luke 2:27b-32 (NIV) When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

What was Simeon’s first response when he saw Mary, Joseph, and their baby?

* go to the young family coming into the temple courts
* ask to hold the baby
* praise God
* declare to them the reality of who this baby really was

What effect did this experience have for him personally?

* joy
* relief
* feeling of fulfillment
* his life’s experiences were now complete
* he was ready to finish his life in peace and joy

How does Simeon talk about Jesus?

* praised God for the baby Jesus
* declared this was the fulfillment of God’s promise to him … this was the Messiah
* the baby would be/is God’s salvation
* God had prepared this event, this salvation
* the baby would be/is light for revelation to the Gentiles
* He would be a light shining in a dark place
* He would bring glory to the people of Israel

How do you think Simeon’s understanding of who the newborn Messiah affected the way he lived?

* lived with anticipation
* did lots of scripture study, thinking about what it said
* looking for clues in scripture as to what God was up to, what the timing might be
* actions based on what would please God
* wanted to be ready to follow the Messiah’s leadership
* always ready to talk about the coming Messiah to anyone who would listen

Where in our culture is the light of Jesus desperately needed?

* people searching for satisfaction and fulfillment in their lives
* people who are enslaved to substance abuse, anger, fear, lust, greed
* those who continue to make bad choices in their lives
* those who are weary of their pointless lives and want a sense of purpose

What of Simeon’s prophecy is still true today?

* Jesus still is the only way of salvation – “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
* No man comes to know and experience eternal life apart from Jesus
* this is true for *all* people … all cultures, all personalities

What do these verses teach us about God’s heart for the nations?

* God’s initial intent for all people to know Him
* Salvation is available for people of all backgrounds
* Jesus stated this in giving us the Great Commission

3.3 Prophecy of Death

Listen for how Jesus would change the world.

Luke 2:33-35 (NIV) The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 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, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

How did Mary and Joseph respond to Simeon?

* they were amazed
* they marveled (wondered, admired)
* they were surprised, impressed, in awe

What are some of the encouraging and yet sobering thoughts these prophecies would bring a brand-new parent?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Encouraging thoughts | Sobering thoughts |
| * this baby is going to be really important
* he’s going to have a significant effect on lives of many people
 | * he will be controversial
* he will make enemies
* things will happen that will cause grief to us as parents
 |

What crisis would the child create for all people?

* force each person to make a choice – accept or reject His Truth
* must come to confess one’s sins – admit to God they are sinful
* must be willing to turn away from sin – repent
* those who refuse are condemned to eternal separation from God
* those who confess, repent, and receive by faith Jesus’ work of redemption personally will receive eternal life – eternal union with God

Why do some people respond positively to Jesus and others do not?

* unbelieves don’t want God to rule in their lives
* people are afraid of giving up their own way of life
* they mistakenly believe that God will mess up their lives

Consider who you know who has *not* accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord

* their heart is “revealed”

 Let’s pray for them … right now

* however, they still have the opportunity to repent of their unbelief
* either they need to know more or to be convicted/convinced by God’s Spirit

How can the hope and peace of Jesus encourage you in 2022?

* assurance that God is in charge, despite of what the world says/does God will prevail
* loved ones with messed up lives can still be salvaged by God’s help
* God can heal – physically, emotionally, spiritually
* God will provide

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* there is forgiveness for my failures

Application

Remember.

* Take a moment and think about how Jesus’ life and ministry revealed the light and glory of God to you.
* How can you remind yourself of Jesus’ example daily?

Reflect.

* Consider some people in your life who need to know that Jesus has revealed God’s glory and love.
* Spend some time in prayer asking God for an opportunity to share the gospel with one of them in the coming week.

Redeem.

* Just as Jesus reveals the light and glory of God to us, we are called to follow His example and share the light and glory of God with others.
* Find a place in your community that needs to see God’s light.
* Invite some friends to go along with you to minister to that community.

One of our secret contacts in the Kezilip Embassy in Washington D.C. has forwarded us the message below. We have received the clue words from one of our agents in that country. Can you please unscramble the clue words (taken from Luke 2:25 – 35 in the NIV) and use the numbers to decode the message? Our decoders are busy watching bowl games. We need your help! Forward the results to your pastor for sports evangelism (when he finishes watching the bowl games). If you get stuck, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p8d7sya> where there are additional intriguing Family Activities

Double Puzzle

