



God keeps His promises!

CURRENT THEME:

Characters at the Cradle

MEMORY VERSE

“And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.” **Luke 2:40**

JANUARY 4 | LIFE APPLICATION

God Keeps His Promises!

Today's Scripture: Luke 2:21-35

Characters at the Cradle: "God is Faithful - Simeon"

Review last week's lesson: Luke 2:1-20

"And Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

What were "all these things" that Mary treasured in her heart and pondered?

Think back to all that has happened since we first knew about Mary in **Luke 1!**

- The angel Gabriel's visit
- Zechariah and Elizabeth's miracle baby at an older age
- Her time with Elizabeth (when Elizabeth's 6-month-old baby leapt in the womb in the presence of her newly conceived baby named Jesus)
- The angel Gabriel's visit to Joseph (he surely shared his angelic visitation story with Mary)
- The birth of Jesus
- The shepherds' surprising visit to the stable where Jesus was born

And this week, there will be more for Mary to ponder!

Discuss Luke 2: 21-35

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[a] 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.”

Discuss Luke 2:21-24

1. Baby Jesus was circumcised after 8 days. This is a sign of God's covenant with Israel, and the cutting away of sin. At this time, he was called Jesus, as his parents had been told. **Who had told them to do this?** (*The angel Gabriel.*) Remember, Gabriel also told Zechariah what to name his child — John. These were very important babies!
2. Mary and Joseph then traveled to Jerusalem after 40 days, where Jesus was to be offered as their first-born child to the Lord. This was also a dedication of the entire family to the Lord, and Jesus and Mary would receive purification so that they could worship in the temple. **What did they offer as a sacrifice?** (*Two turtledoves, or pigeons.*) This shows us that they were not wealthy, because the usual sacrifice for such an occasion would be a lamb.

Discuss Luke 2:25-29

1. Someone else had been told about baby Jesus. Read **verse 25. What do we know about Simeon?**
 - Simeon was righteous and devout
 - He was waiting for the consolation of Israel (He was waiting for the One who would fulfill all God's promises)
 - Does God keep His promises? (Yes!)
 - The Holy Spirit was upon him
2. **What had the Holy Spirit told Simeon?** (*See verse 26, The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Christ — the Messiah.*)
3. Then, the Holy Spirit led Simeon into the temple. Read **verse 27. What did he see?** (*At that exact moment, after all his waiting, Simeon saw Mary and Joseph with Jesus!*)
4. See **verses 28, 29. What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?** (*He picked Jesus up and held him in his arms, and then he blessed God.*) **How do you think Simeon felt, seeing the child that the Holy Spirit had promised?**

Discuss Luke 2:30-33

5. Simeon blessed the Lord and he spoke to Him. Read **verses 29-32**. Simeon thanked God for allowing him to see this special child before he died, and then he prophesied over Jesus. **What did he say about Jesus?**

Verse 30 — “... for my eyes have seen your salvation”

Verse 31 — “that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,”

Verse 32 — “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

Jesus would be salvation and a light on how to live for both Jews and Gentiles!

6. **How did Mary and Joseph feel when they saw and heard Simeon?** (*They marveled and they were amazed! This was more confirmation of all they had seen and heard before about Jesus!*)

7. **Finally, in verses 34, 35 — what else did Simeon say about baby Jesus?**

“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.”

Simeon knew that Jesus would be a dividing line among the Jews — some would love him and some would hate him. Many would oppose Jesus and those who believe in him. Simeon also gives a prophecy to Mary — that a “sword will pierce her soul” — referring to Jesus dying on the cross.

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick

Jesus is:

1. The second person of the Godhead
2. God in human flesh
3. The Savior of the world...and of you!
4. The Judge over all the universe who decides your eternal destiny
5. The One who wants to live IN you and conform you to his image and life

The Old Testament prophecies reported his first coming. The New Testament prophecies report he will come again.

Do you know him? If not:

1. Confess your sins

2. Believe he died on the cross and was raised from the dead
3. Receive him as your Lord and Savior
4. Repent of your sins
5. Be baptized to show you now follow Jesus (**next week - see below**)

Do this and you will desire to obey all that he has commanded you to do. The proof that you love Jesus is your obedience: holiness, righteousness. I pray this is the start of your 2026. It's the most important decision you will ever make!

Family Challenge:

Next week, we will have baptisms at Moments of Hope Church. If you and/or your child would like to make a public profession that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please consider participating. Many times parents and children are baptized together!

Just go to the MOHC website to register — and we will contact you. We even have a **Baptism Parent Guide** we can send so that you can have a conversation together about this important decision.

Prayer: *God, we believe that You keep your promises, as You did when You sent Jesus to this world to die for our sins and give us a new life in Him. We pray You will touch the hearts of everyone in our family, and that we will all know Jesus and live our lives for You. We love You! Amen.*