

Vision Based Curriculum

Honor God ...
Make Disciples

December 18, 2016 - The Christmas Story Pt. 3

Big Idea

Hope is a powerful motivator. Without it, we tend not to survive long. Where we place our hope is a crucial decision. Jesus is the hope of the world—the greatest gift ever given, and his grace is meant to be passed on, to be re-gifted to others. In Luke 2, a devout man in Jerusalem named Simeon eagerly awaits the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit reveals to him that he will not die before seeing the Lord's Messiah, and eventually the Spirit leads him to the Temple on the day that Mary and Joseph present the baby Jesus to the Lord. Simeon praises Jesus in front of everyone and says he can now die happy. He has received everything he hoped for. What are you hoping for this Christmas season?

Get Started

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. 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. 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, "Lord, now you are letting your servant[a] depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2:25-32

Discussion Questions

There are several things that we may focus on too much that can cause us to lose hope:

1. How is your current situation affecting your relationship with God?
2. Have you ever come close to losing hope that your circumstances would change? Explain
3. Are you listening to people who speak more discouragement than encouragement?
4. Have you ever gotten tired of waiting, but stayed the course? How did things play out?

5. What doubts tend to seep in whenever you're on the verge of something good happening?

Prayer

Thank God for giving us Peace.

Pray for a family member or friend who needs the peace of Christ. Speak a blessing over him/her today.

Pray for nations that need to experience God's peace right now. Declare that Jesus' name will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Pray for your group and how God would use you as a group to reach people during the Christmas Season.

Encourage your group to join us for all church prayer on the third Saturday of every month from 6-7 PM at the church. .