

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 3

3 May 2018

A body of heroes – Waiting on a hero

‘He [Simeon] was waiting for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him.’

Luke 2:25b (NIV)

Icebreaker

Ask a volunteer in the group to give a reason he or she feels blessed. Continue around the group. Each person should name a new and different blessing.

Introduction

Read Luke 2:22-38 aloud. This passage deals with the presentation of Jesus as a firstborn baby boy to the Lord in the temple. This ceremony took place in accordance with Jewish law (Lev. 12:2-3). Two faithful Jewish believers, Simeon and Anna, met Joseph, Mary and the infant, Jesus, in the temple. Both Simeon and Anna shared a sincere devotion to God and a lifelong longing for and expectation of the promised Messiah. The Holy Spirit revealed to each individual that the little boy in Mary’s arms was indeed the promised Messiah. Simeon responded with a wonderful hymn of praise to God for the fulfilment of His ancient promises (verses 29-32). Anna praised God and spoke to all those around her who were also longing for redemption in Israel. What a glorious scene of joy!

Discussion

- The ceremony of the consecration of the firstborn male to God (and the purification of Mary after childbirth) recorded in the passage required a sacrifice. Read Luke 2:24. What was the function of this sacrifice? What does this tell us about Jesus and His willingness to humble himself and comply with the demands of righteousness as contained in the Law?
- Simeon and Anna shared a righteous lifestyle, a passionate devotion to God, and an attitude of unwavering expectation that God would fulfil His promises, no matter how long it took. Reflect on each of these characteristics in the light of your own life. Share with each other challenges you may face in these areas as well as your stories of victory.

- Simeon and Anna provide good examples for the spiritual discipline of waiting on God and waiting for God. How do you as a group understand this process of waiting? If you had to explain this to a new believer, how would you do it? Think of the relationship between action, faith, and waiting.

Prayer

- Thank the Lord for all His promises. Affirm again your faith in these promises and ask God for grace to continue steadfastly while you are still waiting for particular answers to prayer.
- Pray for the fulfilment of the many prophetic promises that God has given HCC. Ask God to show you what actions you should take to contribute to the fulfilment of these promises through your own service in church life.
- Pray for colleagues, friends and family members who have not yet received Christ as their Saviour. Thank God for hearing your intercessory prayers and tell Him how you are looking forward in firm expectation to their salvation.