

## Church at Home Pack – 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Join us for our 10:30am online service on Sunday on [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

There is no morning service in the church building today.

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.



### GATHER TOGETHER

#### *A prayer to start –*

Lord God, help us to see your light and salvation with the eyes of faith.

**Amen**

#### **Action reminder –**

From the top of my head

*(Touch head)*

to the tips of my toes;

*(Touch toes)*

from the lobes of my ears

*(Touch ear lobes)*

to the end of my nose;

*(Touch nose)*

from my back, to my front

*(Turn round)*

to my wiggly fingers,

*(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)*

God loves me!

*(jump up and down)*

## READ TOGETHER

### Luke 2: 22-35



#### **International Children's Bible (ICB)**

<sup>22</sup>The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the law of Moses taught about being made pure. They took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>It is written in the law of the Lord: "Give every firstborn male to the Lord." <sup>24</sup>Mary and Joseph also went to offer a sacrifice, as the law of the Lord says: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man and very religious. He was waiting for the time when God would help Israel. The Holy Spirit was in him. <sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord. <sup>27</sup>The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do. <sup>28</sup>Then Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

<sup>29</sup>"Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant,  
die in peace as you said.

<sup>30</sup>I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes.

<sup>31</sup> You prepared him before all people.

<sup>32</sup>He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see.

He will bring honour to your people, the Israelites."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many in Israel will fall and many will rise because of this child. He will be a sign from God that many people will not accept. <sup>35</sup>The things they think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart sad, too."

#### **New International Version (NIV)**

<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 marvelled 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."

## WATCH TOGETHER



**Luke 2: 25-40**

**God's Story – Anna and Simeon** <https://youtu.be/leN-xNrkjbo>



**Hope for you this Christmas season – Canadian Bible Society**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efkET\\_cpXDE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efkET_cpXDE)

## TALK TOGETHER

Sometimes people talk about 'bucket lists' – things they want to do before a certain age or before they die. *(Parents – for young or anxious children it's better to talk about things to do before they reach the age of 10 or 15 or 20. Pick an older age for yourself)*

- What would be on your bucket list?
- Why do you want to do those things?
- Are any of your choices to do with your friendship with Jesus?  
If not, can you think of any that you could add?

## STUDY TOGETHER

### **Read Luke 2:25-32**

- Simeon had one thing on his 'bucket list' – he wanted to see God's promised Saviour. How do you think he knew that the baby Jesus was the one he'd been waiting for?
- Simeon was waiting for the time when God would help his people. How did the birth of Jesus do that (look at v.30-32)?

### **Read Luke 2:33-35**

- Even after all the angels and shepherd visitors Mary and Joseph were still amazed at what Simeon said.
  - Why do you think they were amazed?
  - Do you ever struggle to accept or understand things that God has told you?
- How do you think Mary felt when Simeon told her that her heart would be sad because of things that would happen? I wonder what she thought would happen. (Remember, she doesn't know the end of the story)
- What has Mary heard so far about Jesus in the Christmas story from the angels, shepherds and Simeon?

- As we read the gospel stories, we discover that some people who saw Jesus recognised who he was but others didn't (there were also some who didn't realise at first but later came to understand). Can you think of some in each category?

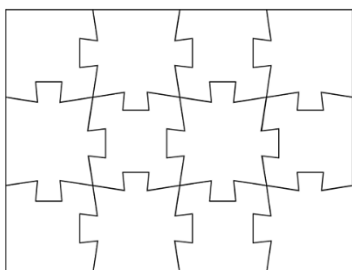
Here are some examples if you get stuck:

- John 1:43-45
- Matthew 8:23-27
- Matthew 8:28-34
- Matthew 9:32-34
- John 9:13-16, 35-40
- Matthew 16:13-17
- Luke 23:32-43
- Mark 15:33-39

- Even followers of Jesus may not 'see' him when he speaks to us or when he's at work in different situations in the world. What might stop us from seeing Jesus today?

## MAKE TOGETHER

Simeon had to wait a long time until he got to see what God had promised – Jesus. He couldn't see the 'full picture'. Just like when you do a jigsaw puzzle, you need to wait until the end to see the full picture. Why don't you have a go at making a **'What are you waiting for?' Jigsaw!**



Draw a picture of something that you are waiting for.

For example:

- Being able to see friends or family that you haven't seen in a while or to be allowed to hug them.
- An event like a birthday.
- To be able to go back to church.
- To get the vaccine.

Then cut it up in to different shapes to make a jigsaw and use as suggested in the **Play Together** section.



## PLAY TOGETHER

### *'What are you waiting for?' Jigsaws*



Get everyone in your house to make a jigsaw picture like the one suggested in the **Make Together** Section. Everyone then tries to do someone else's jigsaw. Give your jumbled-up jigsaw to another person and see if they can make put it together and guess what it is you are waiting for!

## SING TOGETHER

**In the bleak midwinter/Soli Deo Gloria** – Keith and Kristyn Getty:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WW4kVDRYUpk>

**Christmas Calypso** – Out of the Ark choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvqoCllixog>

**Simeon's Song** – Koine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plj3tu8mFgA>

## REFLECT TOGETHER



Think back over today's Bible story. You might like to read it again. Which character do you connect with the most and why:

- Simeon?
- Mary?
- Joseph?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Praise the Lord, you are close to him.

**Praise the Lord!** (*wave hands in the air*)

Praise the baby in the manger.

**Praise the Lord!** (*wave hands in the air*)

Praise Jesus the Saviour.

**Praise the Lord!** (*wave hands in the air*)

Praise Christ the Light of the World

**Praise the Lord!** (*wave hands in the air*)

Go in peace.

**Praise the Lord!** (*wave hands in the air*)

**Amen.**

Thank you, God, that the time of waiting is now over  
That with Simeon we can bless you for the coming of Jesus into the world.  
We confess those many times we fail to see your purpose, your presence, in what lies before us.  
We are sorry when our minds are closed to see you or understand what you are doing in our lives.  
Direct what we think, say and do that we may be transformed by your new beginning in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Salvation.  
Give us a passion for your Gospel and a vision of your kingdom in which young and old worship and serve you together.

**Amen**

## **DO TOGETHER**

Simeon gives us an example of a good, faithful elderly man who has kept trusting in God's promises. The next few verses of Luke ch.2 also tell us of Anna, an elderly lady who worshipped God and prayed every day. There are lots of older people in our church family who have been friends of Jesus for a long time. They have many wonderful stories to share of what God has done for them and how he's been with them throughout their life. They have so much to teach us that could help us as we live for Jesus.

If you're a younger person, think of someone older in our church who you could ring up and ask them to tell you something about what Jesus means to them.

If you're an older person, when was the last time you encouraged a younger Christian in our church family by sharing how Jesus has helped you? Why not, ring someone up or write them a letter.

When we're allowed to, meet up to chat about Jesus together.



Email: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

*Action Reminder and Pray Together prayers taken or adapted from*

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