

SESSION

5

SIMEON'S PROCLAMATION

WHAT'S
ONE ITEM
ON YOUR
BUCKET
LIST?

THE POINT ➤

WE HAVE A SURE HOPE WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS.

► LUKE 2:25-35

²⁵ There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,

²⁹ Now, Master,
you can dismiss your servant in peace,
as you promised.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation.

³¹ You have prepared it
in the presence of all peoples—

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory to your people Israel.

³³ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary: "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed— ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

IT'S PRETTY COOL THAT A 3D PRINTER CAN MAKE A SURVIVAL WHISTLE OR A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES FRAMES, BUT NOT NEARLY AS COOL AS AN ENTIRE OFFICE BUILDING OR A FULLY-FUNCTIONAL SPORTS CAR.² YEP, THESE ARE REAL THINGS!

More and more people are buying 3D printers. Whereas old-school printers put words on paper using ink, 3D printers create objects in just about any shape you can dream up. But what if a 3D printer could be used to reproduce, say, a human liver? Researchers are already looking into the possibility. Instead of stacking successive layers of plastic to create an object, a “bioprinter” would use a person’s own cells to construct living tissue.¹ In the future, you could receive a transplantable organ with no risk of rejection.

Seems impossible, right? Just think how far-fetched a 3D printer sounded just a few years ago. And smartphones! Can you imagine taking pictures with an actual camera? Selfies were a lot more complicated ten years ago.

The Jewish people had waited centuries for the Messiah. Through the prophets, God had promised He was coming, but the Jews wondered if it would happen in their lifetime? One man in the Bible knew the answer. We don’t know a lot about him, but we know this one thing: he knew he would see the Messiah.

LUKE 2:25-27

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

2 In what ways is Simeon an example for us?



LUKE 2:28-32

3 What are some promises we look forward to God fulfilling?

4 What does Simeon's statement of praise teach us about God's mission?

5 When you think about the salvation God has given to you, what is your response?

LUKE 2:33-35

6 How does Jesus cause people to "fall and rise"?

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

8 How can we appropriately respond to those who oppose Jesus today?

God's purpose in salvation is to draw all people to Himself. #BSFLfullpicture





LIVE IT OUT

► CHRIST

Simeon said our hearts would be revealed through Jesus' coming to us. Take a look at your life. What does your heart—your thoughts and desires—reveal about your standing with Jesus?

9 How does your life demonstrate you truly love Jesus?



10 What things do you need to give up in order to live more closely in relationship with Him?

11 What practices do you need to grow in to love Him more deeply?

Make it a point every day this week to pray about and practice these things.



► COMMUNITY

When Simeon encountered Jesus, he was impacted in such a way that God used him to bless and encourage others.

12 What are some things about Jesus which have recently impacted you?

13 How can you share these with others in your church family in order to bless them?

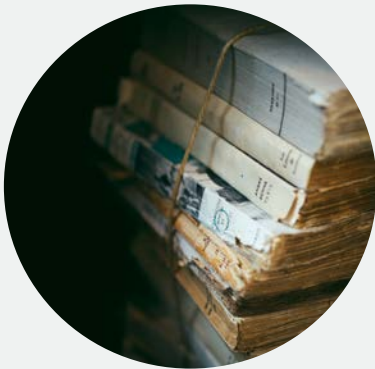
► CULTURE

When we share the gospel with people in our culture, they will respond one of two ways—they'll rise or fall, accept or reject. Nonetheless, the good news of Jesus is meant for all people, and we are called to share.

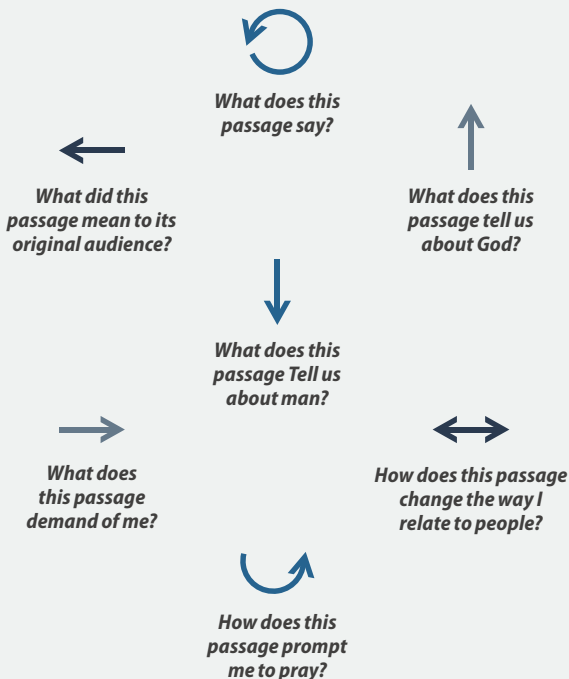
14 Who do you know that isn't a follower of Jesus, but seems to be open to the gospel?

15 How do you think God would use you to help lift him or her out of darkness and into the light of Christ?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



DAY ONE ROMANS 4:13-15

God made an incredible promise to Abraham—that He would bless him and make his descendants greater than the grains of sand on the seashore and the stars in the sky, and that the whole world would be blessed through Him. Wow! But in order for this to happen, Abraham had to be a righteous man. Righteous means “right.” Not just mostly right, but perfectly right. God called His people, Israel, to a number of things—to follow the law, to be circumcised, to live in obedience—yet these things alone never made anyone right with God, because every person, including Abraham, fell desperately short. But Abraham was righteous before God, not because he lived in perfect obedience, but because he trusted in God’s promise and God’s provision. Because of this faith, Abraham was able to receive the blessing that God desired for him.

- **What has God promised that is especially meaningful to you?**
- **What is your response to the idea that we must be “righteous” to live in relationship with God?**

DAY TWO

ROMANS 4:16-17



Throughout the generations, because they were descendants of Abraham, many Jews saw themselves as a part of God's own family. God did indeed promise to bless the children of Abraham, but this promise applies ultimately not to his physical descendants, but to his spiritual descendants—those who have placed their faith in God as Abraham did. We are made right with God as a gift of His grace and through our trust in Him. Some people trust in our good works to make us a part of God's family. Others think our relationship with God is passed down from generation to generation. The truth is, however, that we are made right with God only by a real faith that impacts every part of our lives.

- **When have you thought that things other than faith could make you right with God?**
- **How does genuine faith impact the way we live?**

DAY THREE

ROMANS 4:18-19

God promised Abraham that he would be a father to many nations, but he grew to be 100 years old, and his wife hadn't been able to bear children. In a sense it seemed hopeless that God's promise would be made a reality. In fact, because of this, Abraham considered himself and his line to be essentially dead. But we know, just as Abraham did, that we serve a God of the impossible, so against all hope, Abraham believed that God would somehow follow through on His promise. There will be times when we face situations that seem hopeless. However, this is when it's most important that we remember God's promises, and trust, by faith, that He will come through. This doesn't mean that life will always be easy. However, because of Jesus, we can know that in the end, God will bless those who live by faith in Him.

- **When have you faced a seemingly hopeless situation and God came through?**
- **How can you grow in living by faith when it's difficult to trust?**

DAY FOUR

ROMANS 4:20-21

From an earthly perspective, because Abraham was an old man (we're talking 100 years old!) and his wife was no spring chicken either, it was seemingly impossible that they would ever have children and pass on the family name. However, God had made Abraham a promise. When people face seemingly incompatible ideas, we generally go with what makes the most sense in our minds. Abraham did exactly that—to most of us, it would make sense to say, "I'm old, so I guess this whole family line thing just isn't going to work out," but Abraham's perspective was, "God said it, so I believe it's going to happen." Worldly people operate according to worldly perspectives. However, for those who are a part of God's family, we belong to the kingdom and live according to eternal realities no matter what the world says. Abraham knew without a doubt that God would do what He said. We need to live the same way.

- **What have you experienced that has caused you to doubt God's Word?**
- **Why do you think Abraham was able to have such faith when things pointed to his not being able to have a child?**

DAY FIVE

ROMANS 4:22-25



Time and time again, we hear people say they're confident in their salvation because they believe in God, or because they pray, or perhaps most commonly because they're good people. The truth is that none of these are what makes us right with God. In fact, God's standard is perfect righteousness, and we can never come close. The only way to be reconciled to God is to trust in Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, as our righteousness. Abraham trusted God's promises, which ultimately included sending Jesus, and because of his faith, God placed upon Abraham's life the righteousness of Christ. This same principle applies to us today—trust in Jesus and, through your faith, you'll be made right with God.

- **Do you tend to be more trusting or more skeptical? Describe.**
- **How does this impact your relationship with God?**