

Hope Has Come



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 2 – GREAT EXPECTATIONS

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Moved 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

³³The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then 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, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

– Luke 2:25-38 (NIV)

TENSION QUESTION:

How long must we _____?

God _____ to send a Savior

↳ The _____ of the _____ served as the _____ of the _____

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

– Genesis 3:15 (NIV)

God's _____ was fulfilled at _____

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

– Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

The _____ on God's promises is always worth the _____

⁵And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

– Romans 5:5 (NLT)

BIG IDEA:

Fulfilled prophecies _____ our _____ in God's promises

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why is waiting on God so difficult?
2. How can the fulfillment of God's promises in the Christmas story encourage us not to lose hope?
3. How did God respond to humanity's need for a Savior?
4. Why is it important to note the timing of Jesus' birth was according to God's plan?
5. What might this teach us about God's timing versus our own?
6. Why are God's promises always worth the wait?
7. How can fulfilled prophecies give us a more confident hope in what God has promised us in Jesus?

ADDITIONAL NOTES
