

## Reflecting on God's Word

Six prompts to discuss:

1. Notice the characters in this story. For each character, imagine what emotions they might be feeling. Which character(s) do you relate to most—Mary, Joseph, Simeon, or Anna?
2. The text says that Simeon was “moved by the Spirit” (v. 27). Have you ever felt “moved by the Spirit?” What does that look like for you?
3. Both Anna and Simeon publicly display their faith, telling all who will listen about Jesus and their dreams for Jerusalem's future. What things do you speak up about? What are things you have remained silent about? What prevents you from speaking?
4. Who in your life has been an Anna and Simeon for you? What did they speak about, and how did their profession change you?
5. The text today speaks of Jesus being presented in the temple. In many ways, this mirrors the ritual of baptizing babies at a young age in worship. Share a meaningful baptism memory with the group, either from your community of faith or from your family.
6. Finally, focus on the “now what”? What is your takeaway from the story? What are you charged to do, think, or feel?

## Luke 2:22-40 (CEB)

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (<sup>23</sup> It's written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup> They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

<sup>25</sup> A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. <sup>28</sup> Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, <sup>29</sup> “Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your salvation.

<sup>31</sup> You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

<sup>32</sup> It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and a glory for your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. <sup>37</sup> She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>40</sup> The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.