

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: CHRISTMAS SIMEON'S SONG

# TALK IT OVER

### Start Here

Simeon's Song is often known by its Latin name; the Nunc Dimittis.

### Key Scripture

*"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." Exodus 13:2 (ESV)*

*See OT Childbirth purification instructions in Leviticus 12.*

*"he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6 (ESV)*

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (ESV)*

*and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." Romans 15:9-12 (ESV)*

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### Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low from Christmas!

### Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 2:22-40. Why do you think Simeon's song came to be used as one of the 5 most influential songs of worship for the early church (in the first few centuries of Christianity)?
- How does Luke 2:22-40 build off of the Angel's announcement to Mary in Luke 1?

### Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 25-26).
- Read Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 49:6, and Romans 15:9-12. At the time of Jesus' incarnate ministry, the Jews had a very poor attitude toward the Gentiles (non-Jews) as being people God didn't want to save. Why do you think they missed the clear statements of scripture? How can we keep from being blind to things scripture is telling us?
- Read Luke 2:34. Who would rise and who would fall?
- How would you define the "favor" of God (Luke 2:40)?

### Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Christmas is technically supposed to be observed for the next two weeks. What's one way you can "take Christmas with you?"
- Are there people that you'd rather not interact with or share the Gospel with? How can you get some relational time with those people in order to understand and empathize with them?

### Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "Lord, I may not have physically gotten eyes on Jesus like Simeon did, but to know Him as proclaimed in your word, to have His Spirit dwelling in my heart – that gives me great joy. May the knowledge of your son give me great peace in this life, and whenever I depart from this life. Amen."

### Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What has God been teaching you in His word this week? Is there anything you need to repent of?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.