

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,

<sup>29</sup> Now, Master,  
you can dismiss your servant in peace,  
as you promised.  
<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation.  
<sup>31</sup> You have prepared it  
in the presence of all peoples—  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and glory to your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup> His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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— <sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

— *Luke 2:25-35*

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

What is something you are looking forward to in 2026?

Have two or three people read Luke 2:25-35 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Have you ever experienced the feeling of hopelessness? How would you describe that feeling?

In the sermon, John made the point that when God is in the story, there is no such thing as hopelessness. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

Read Revelation 21:5. How does this statement change our perspective? Do you trust God to keep His promise?

John said, "Maturing in faith then is getting to the place where your identity as God's child begins to supersede your identity as your earthly father's child." How does our identity relate to hope?

Read Hebrews 6:19. Reflect on the image of hope as an anchor. What truth is this image meant to convey?

Where are you struggling with hope? How can your group pray for you?