

December 13

Character: Simeon

Setting: Our story begins today with another traditional Jewish ceremony that takes place within a couple of months after a child is born in Israel. If the child is a son, he must be dedicated to the Lord and his parents are required to bring an offering to the temple. On this particular day, Mary and Joseph had gone to Jerusalem to dedicate their baby, Jesus, to the Lord, and make a purification offering, as required by the law of Moses. When they reached the temple, they met an elderly man named Simeon. We don't know a lot about Simeon from the Bible, but we do know that the Holy Spirit was upon him, and he clearly knew exactly WHO this baby was, and what His life would mean to the entire world.. Our passage can be found in Luke, Chapter 2, beginning at verse 21. Please read along with me.

Scripture: Luke 2:21-33

Application: The Bible describes Simeon as being a righteous, devout man who spent His life eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. The Spirit of the Lord led him to Jerusalem that day, and he immediately recognized Jesus to be the child he'd been waiting to find. Can you imagine the emotions he must have felt, when he saw the Lord's Messiah with his very eyes – after years of waiting for this exact moment of time? Mary and Joseph must have passed hundreds or even thousands of people while carrying Jesus to Jerusalem. The vast majority had no idea WHO they held, OR that Mary was cradling God's Salvation in her arms. But Simeon knew with just one glance that Jesus was the Messiah, and he was ready to die in peace now that his eyes had seen Jesus. Discuss this event and the words Simeon spoke in verses 29-32 today in your homes, and record the parts of this passage that you'd like to reflect upon as you remember what one look at Jesus can do for a person searching for a Savior and longing for salvation.

Prayer: Praise God for revealing to Simeon the identity of the Messiah. Thank Him that He has also revealed to us WHO Jesus was, WHY He came into this world, and HOW we can have salvation through Him. Ask God to help us never lose our wonder or amazement in His perfect Son and His perfect plan for salvation that began with a baby boy born in Bethlehem.