

The Story After the Story: Simeon and Anna | Luke 2:22-40

Big Idea: *God sees faithful hearts, uses waiting as holy ground, and meets us with lasting hope when we encounter Jesus—even in ordinary moments.*

INTRO & ICEBREAKERS

- What's something you've waited a long time for, like an answer on a burning question, a new season, or a major life change?
 - Are you naturally patient, or does waiting tend to frustrate you?

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

- God sees faithfulness others overlook. Simeon and Anna were not famous, powerful, or central figures, but God honored their steady obedience.
 - Where does faithfulness feel unnoticed or ordinary in your life right now?
- Waiting can become sacred space. Their waiting didn't harden Simeon and Anna; it prepared them.
 - How does culture's impatience shape the way we relate to God and prayer?
 - What would it look like to treat waiting with God as *meaningful*?
- When we meet Jesus, hope rises; when Simeon held Jesus, it was enough, no next milestone needed.
 - What are the "next things" you're tempted to believe will finally satisfy you?
 - How does this story challenge the idea that fulfillment comes from circumstances changing?

GIVING IT HANDLES

- Where might God be inviting you to stay faithful rather than rush ahead?
- What would change if you believed God sees your obedience right now?
- As Christmas ends and ordinary life resumes, how can you stay attentive to Jesus in everyday moments?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Faithfulness: Ask God to help you be steady and obedient, even when no one sees.
- Trust in Waiting: Invite Him to use any season of waiting to shape your heart and encourage your reliance on God, rather than discourage it.
- Satisfaction in Christ: Pray for a deeper contentment rooted in Jesus, not in "what comes next."