



An **EMOTIONAL**
Christmas



An Anxious **CHRISTMAS**

Week 1
Devotional №2

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." – Luke 2:25-35

Do you remember a time when you were anxiously awaiting something big? Maybe it was an exciting Christmas present, or a vacation. For me, it was the birth of my son. We were so excited. We knew that we were having a child, so we eagerly worked to get our house ready. We excitedly talked about names, bought clothes and baby supplies, and learned all the new things we would need to do as a parent. But mostly, we were just anxiously waiting for the day to arrive. And, as the day got closer and closer, we got more excited about it. But we didn't know exactly when it was going to happen, so we just had to sit in anticipation.

A lot of times, Christmas is like that for kids. They know that there is a lot of exciting things coming, like good food to eat, family to hang out with and fun presents to

unwrap. The eagerness for the day often times leads to kids getting up way earlier than normal, just so they can get to the excitement all that much sooner. They just can't wait. This was the situation Simeon was in. God had made him a promise that he would get to see the Messiah, but he didn't know when or where. He had to wait. And wait. And wait. But he didn't lose his anticipation. And, when finally, God's promise came true, he was overjoyed! But this anxious anticipation wasn't just for Simeon. All of creation had been waiting for Jesus to come so that He could make things right, and now He had!

So, this Christmas, what are you most anxious for? Is it all good ham, turkey, potatoes, and desserts? Is it exchanging the perfect gifts? Or spending time with loved ones that you don't get to see very often? As you celebrate and enjoy all of these fun things, remember with child-like faith the excitement of Jesus' first coming, and also anxiously await the time when He will return!

DISCUSS

- What is something that you have anxiously waited for? When you got it, was it worth the wait?
- What are you anxiously waiting for this Christmas?
- Why do you think Simeon was so eager to meet Jesus?
- Why is child-like faith so important?

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- As a family, thank God for sending Jesus to fulfill all the promises that God had made.
- Ask God to help you have a child-like anxious excitement for what He is doing this Christmas season.
- As a family, sing “Come thou long expected Jesus” together, and spend some time talking about what the song means.

ACTION

- A new birth is an exciting thing to be celebrated! So, think about throwing a birthday party for Jesus, and invite people you know to share in the celebration!