



Discussion Guide — 12/28/2025

Series: Beyond the Manger | Stories of Christmas

Message: Prophet's Story

Scripture: Luke 2:22–38 (NRSVUE)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, You keep Your promises across years and lifetimes. By Your Spirit, teach us to wait well, to recognize Jesus in our ordinary days, and to speak good news with courage and joy. Amen.

Introduction & Context

Luke places the infant Jesus in the Temple, where two elders—Simeon and Anna—embody faithful waiting. Simeon has been “looking forward to the consolation of Israel”; Anna has worshiped “night and day” for decades. When they see Jesus, waiting turns to witness: blessing, prophecy, praise, and public testimony. Mary and Joseph—young, poor, and obedient—offer the prescribed sacrifice and receive both comfort and hard truth. This scene invites us to practice patient hope, recognize God’s salvation in humble places, and join the covenant life Jesus fulfills.

Discussion Questions

1) Hear the Word

- Read Luke 2:22–38 aloud. What single word or phrase stands out? Why do you think it caught you today?
- Where do you notice contrasts (young/old, poor/rich, hidden/revealed, waiting/fulfillment)? How do these contrasts sharpen Luke’s message?

2) Waiting, Seeing, Speaking (Simeon)

- Luke says the Holy Spirit rested on Simeon, revealed a promise to him, and guided him (vv. 25–27). Which of those three verbs most resonates with your current season—rested, revealed, or guided? Explain.



- Simeon’s song centers on “my eyes have seen your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel” (vv. 30–32). How does this widen our view of who the good news is for? Where might our vision need widening now?
- Simeon blesses and then speaks a hard word to Mary (vv. 34–35). When has a truthful blessing both comforted and challenged you? What made it trustworthy?

3) A Long Obedience (Anna)

- Anna’s faithfulness is steady, communal, and hopeful (vv. 36–38). What disciplines help you keep showing up when answers are slow? Which practice (prayer, fasting, worship, service) could God be inviting you to renew in the new year?
- Anna “began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Who are the “lookers for redemption” around you? What helps you speak naturally about Jesus with them?

4) Ordinary Faithfulness (Mary & Joseph...and Us)

- Mary and Joseph bring the offering of the poor (v. 24) and “do everything required by the Law” (v. 39). How does their quiet obedience shape your understanding of spiritual maturity?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to “show up” faithfully in an ordinary place (home, work, neighborhood, church) this week? What might “eyes to see salvation” look like there?
- If you wrote a six-word memoir from today’s passage, what would it be? (Share around the circle.) How might your six words guide your prayers and choices this week?

Closing Prayer

Faithful Lord, You met Simeon and Anna in the Temple and fulfilled their hope in Jesus. Meet us in our ordinary places. Give us patient hearts, clear eyes, and ready voices to bless, to testify, and to love. Keep us in Your covenant grace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Key Takeaway

God’s promises ripen in ordinary faithfulness. Simeon and Anna show us that steady waiting, Spirit-led seeing, and courageous speaking are how hope becomes witness.



Next Step — P.A.R. (Pray • Act • Reflect)

Pray:

“Spirit, teach me to wait well. Let my eyes see Your salvation in the ordinary this week.” Sit one quiet minute; picture where you regularly “show up” (home, desk, shop floor, classroom) and ask for Christ’s nearness there.

Act:

Choose one faithful “showing up” habit to calendar today: return to worship next Sunday; set a daily prayer or Scripture time (read Luke 2 again with someone); write and send one specific encouragement; or take one concrete act of mercy/reconciliation.

Reflect:

Each evening finish this sentence: “*Today I experienced God* ____.” At week’s end, share one “God-sighting” with a friend or your group.

Country Club UMC • Around the Manger • Discussion Guide (Week of December 28, 2025)

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