



## Born in Me December 31, 2017

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as You have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which You have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of Your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about Him. <sup>34</sup> 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, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Luke 2:22-35

## The Incarnation Makes Me

1. Willing to Wait for God
2. Rely On God’s Spirit
3. Open to Others
4. Aware of the Struggle

## Home/Group Study

*Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.*  
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

1. What kind of person are you most impressed with and desire to emulate?
2. What are you waiting for, and what makes your waiting so difficult?
3. What do you do when you feel powerless to change or grow? What would God call you to do in those moments?
4. How can you make more space in your heart for others?
5. When you are overwhelmed, how can you know that Jesus is with you, loves you, and is working for your good?