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JESUS PRESENTED AT THE TEMPLE

TRUTH ABOUT GOD///

God's Word always comes true.

SERIES AIM

God had a plan to save the world, and at times it seemed like He moved heaven and earth to make it a reality. Jesus was coming, and there would be one who would prepare the world for His arrival. Nothing can stand in the way of God's perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Luke 2:21-40

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will faithfully wait for God's Word to come to pass.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?///

Anna never had kids of her own, and her husband died when she was very young. It seems she had a very difficult life. However, even though she experienced some terrible things, she never quit serving God. In fact, she fasted and prayed continually for God's will to be done in Israel. Anna's prayerfulness ensured she was open to the Holy Spirit speaking to her. Because of this, she was at the Temple when Jesus arrived.

We must faithfully wait for God's Word to come to pass. There will be difficult moments. We may face hard times that make us feel like giving up. There will be days when we struggle to believe that He is still able to bring to pass the thing He promised to us. We may even have moments where we doubt whether we ever heard from God at all. If we will remain faithful and continue to trust Him, though, we will experience His promises in our lives.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// When was a time God asked you to wait?

/// How difficult was it to have patience during the waiting?

/// Did you ever get impatient and try to make things move faster?

/// How important is it to trust God while we wait for His promises to be fulfilled in our lives?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

RELYING ON HIS WORD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

Read Luke 2:21-24.

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Just like that, the Savior of the world was born. Even when Jesus was grown, His disciples were convinced they knew how Jesus was going to save the world and the Jews. But just like in this moment, there was an order and a purpose for things. Jesus was a baby and would continue to be a baby until He was grown. He was still circumcised like other babies, and when He met John the Baptist, He was baptized, just like we should be baptized today. We can be sure that the way we do things in the church is right because it is the way that Jesus did them. Some might try to do things differently or might try to rush you, but another thing we can learn from Jesus is that obedience and consistency in the things of God are just what we need to succeed.

Jr. High /// In what areas have you not been obedient with your parent or guardian?

Sr. High /// Take some time to look up a list of Jesus' teachings. List some things in your journal that stand out to you that you know you can improve.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Read Luke 2:25-26.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Simeon was obviously a man who prayed some big prayers. He had such a connection to God and was so devout and faithful that God chose Him to live long enough to see the Messiah. We need to be more like Simeon, growing close to God and praying prayers that seem larger than life and impossible in the world's eyes. Take a chance on God, pray for big things every day, and never stop talking to Him. God wants to make the improbable and the impossible happen in your life. So don't stop asking.

Jr. High /// Take a moment to think about something that seems big or impossible. Then make a point to pray about that thing intentionally this week.

Sr. High /// This week make your future the focus of your prayers, and write down anything that God speaks to you about.

RELYING ON HIS WORD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Read Luke 2:27-32.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Simeon knew without question whom he held in his arms: the Savior of the world, Jesus. It's amazing to think that all that Simeon had ever prayed for was there in his hands. His life and devotion to God had peaked in this very moment. And in that moment, everything was right. Like Simeon, we should have respect and appreciation for our answers to prayer. Prayers big and small are answered in a variety of ways, but the miracles of God, no matter the size or wow factor, should be respected all the same. God deserves our praise, and when He reaches down and touches us or works a miracle for our sake, even in the small things, we should give Him all the praise. Let's be sure God's miracles never stop amazing us.

Jr. High /// What is something amazing you have seen God do?

Sr. High /// Reflect on a time in which you saw a miracle take place. If you have never seen a miracle, ask your pastor, parent, or guardian to share a time that God did something miraculous for them.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

Read Luke 2:36-38.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Like Simeon, Anna was also faithful and devout. The Bible tells us that she was a prophetess and knew of Jesus' coming as well. Anna spent her time day and night praying and fasting. She wasn't praying for Jesus to come; she already knew He was on His way. She wasn't fasting because something was wrong; she was fasting because she knew that God honored sacrifice. Perhaps too often we are only praying and fasting because we need or want something. It's true that we should seek God for things we need, but God desires our time and a relationship with us beyond just to hear our requests. If we are only hanging out with God to get something from Him, is it really a relationship at all? Sometimes the best thing we can do is pray and fast just to spend some time in His presence and let Him change us in ways only He can.

Jr. High /// Write down some things you asked God for but did not really need.

Sr. High /// Think of some requests that you had for God that were really just personal wants. Do you still want those things, or did God spare you by not giving you what you asked for?

RELYING ON HIS WORD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

Read Luke 2:42–48.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Two things jump out about this little story: First, they didn't know where Jesus was for days; and second, He had spent His time educating men of God in the Temple. At even this young age, Jesus understood who He was and understood His purpose as Savior and as a teacher. There is no record of what became of the men He taught, but we can be pretty sure that those moments changed their lives forever, just to have a brush with Jesus. It is how we should see every interaction we get to have with the lost: one more special opportunity to let them know about the One who can change their lives forever. If they could just get to know Jesus, they would never be the same.

Jr. High /// Take some time to make a list of friends or family that you want to see saved. Add them to your prayer list for this week.

Sr. High /// Think about some friends and family that you want to see saved. Make a list of all the names, and make their salvation part of your daily prayer.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Read Luke 2:49–52.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Jesus was incredible, of course. And even at this young age, Mary understood just how special and different He was. Mary was a woman of great faith; she had to be with all of the things that happened to her. But more than that, she was never casual about the awesomeness of Jesus and His miracles. Sure, she probably had to parent Him in the same ways some of our parents parented us, but deep down, Mary always held such a wonder for the things Jesus did and said. Mary cherished the things of God and His words like nothing else in this life. We should all try to be like Mary, taking note of the little prayers answered here, the miracle there, and storing up the Word of God in our hearts just to think about and brighten our day when we need it the most. We should never stop looking for wonder. When it comes to Jesus, His Word and His promises hold so much hope, and that hope is what will help us get through tough days.

Jr. High /// Do you think God cares about the little prayers you pray? Why?

Sr. High /// What prayers has God answered for you that seem small or insignificant? Why is it powerful to know that God cares for even the smallest things in our lives?

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