

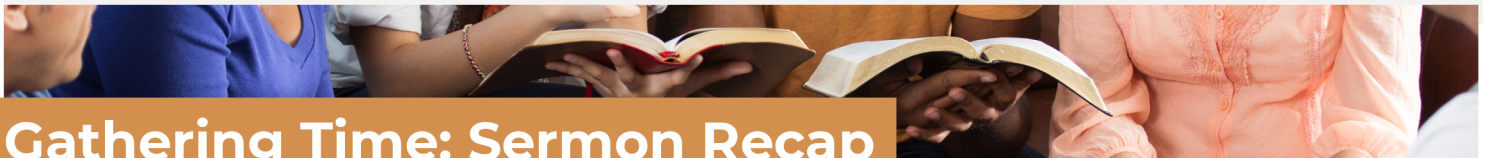
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

Simeon's Song: Sustained in God's Promises

Today, Bishop preached the next message in the *Christmas Playlist* series where we have examined biblical “songs” (poetic prayers of praise) about the Savior. In today’s message, Bishop preached on Simeon’s Song. The song and background can be found in **Luke 2:21-35 and Isaiah 40:1-2.**

After having their newborn baby circumcised according to the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph went to the Temple to present baby Jesus to God and fulfill the purification rites that God’s Law required. It was there at the Jerusalem Temple that they encountered a man named Simeon.

Simeon was a righteous and devout old man who had been waiting for the consolation of Israel; he was waiting for God to send the long awaited Messiah—the Savior! God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Him. One day, the Holy Spirit directed Simeon to the Temple. As soon as he saw Jesus with Mary and Joseph, he knew this child was the promised Deliverer!

Simeon had waited faithfully for a long time for the Savior to arrive, and He was finally here! Simeon began to worship God with a beautiful “song” of praise. He was so full of peace and contentment that he felt ready to die. Can you imagine? He had just held the Savior of the world in his arms!

Simeon announced that he had seen the salvation of the world, the light to the Gentiles, and the glory to Israel. Yet, Simeon’s praise ended with sorrow; he saw struggle ahead. He said some would not accept this Savior, Jesus would be opposed, Mary’s heart would be pierced with sorrow (seeing Jesus crucified), and that Jesus would reveal thoughts. (How people respond to Him exposes their hearts!)

Following God is not always easy, but He is *always* worth it! We must remember: God keeps His promises. Let that truth sustain you when you face struggles. Our Savior is so faithful, and He is worth sharing with the whole world! He came for everyone. Who will you share the Savior with this week?

Conversation Starter

Ask: What is your favorite Christmas song? Have you heard any strange ones? Overplayed ones?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the biblical/historical context of Simeon's song? Why did Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple?
- Do you think most people have a hard time waiting on God? What does this story teach us about His timing and faithfulness?
- Share about a time when you waited for God to give you an answer about something. How did it turn out?

- **Track 2:** What does Simeon mean in vv. 30-32? What did he mean when he said "prepared in the presence of all people"? What does he mean when he says "light" and "glory"?

- How does Acts 4:11-12 and Romans 9:30-33 help explain the "rising and falling of many"?
- How does Jesus reveal hearts? How did Simeon say people would react to Him?

- **Track 3:** Have you struggled in following God or believing His promises? How is following God worth it?

- What verses from this song resonate with you?
- Who will you share the gospel with?



God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Luke 2:21-24. How did Mary and Joseph show obedience to God?
- **Tuesday:** Read Luke 2:25-28. The Messiah would console (or comfort) Israel by offering forgiveness. Simeon didn't give up hope, looking for the Messiah. What are you believing God for today?
- **Wednesday:** Read Luke 2:28-32. What is Simeon's response to seeing the Messiah? How does knowing the Messiah (Jesus) impel you to share Him with others?
- **Thursday:** Read Luke 2:33-35. Is Simeon's prophecy good news for everyone? How does someone's response to Jesus reveal their thoughts and heart?
- **Friday:** Reread Luke 2:21-35. How will you let God's promises sustain you?



God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** this passage from an easy-to-read Bible version (like the ERV), or from a children's Bible.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "Simeon was a godly old man who was very excited about getting to meet the Savior someday. God had told Him that he would get to meet Jesus before he died, and he did! He got to hold baby Jesus and praise God for Him. God kept His promise to Simeon, and He kept the promise He made to the world by sending a Savior."
- **Ask:** Is it important to keep promises?
- **Say:** When we keep promises, we are being trustworthy, like God.
- **Activity:** Make a list of some of God's promises. (He will comfort us, save us, forgive us, love us, etc.) Work on memorizing the promise in John 3:16.

Give: *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*