

Series: Christmas Stories

November 27, 2022

Message: Simeon – Promises Kept

Proverbs 8:17 | Isaiah 9:6-7; 53:4-6 | Luke 2:25-35

The promise: I am coming.

Simeon's Christmas Story

Why do promises matter?

- Trust
- Faith
- Relationship

God desires to be known by you.

- Your story matters to God.
- His story transforms your story.
- Claim His promises to you today.

Life Group Study

For week of November 27, 2022

Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. We encourage you to take that next step in your journey with Jesus & His church by joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover as we worshiped the Lord together this past Sunday?

What was Christmas like when you were growing up? What is the best memory you have when you think of Christmas?

Connect to God's story

Read Luke 2:25-35.

Jesus' parents participate in three Jewish ceremonies after the birth of Jesus. Do you think about Jesus as Jewish? Why or why not?

Why would it be important for the readers of Luke's Gospel to know that Jesus is Jewish? How can this foundation help us to understand the importance of God keeping His promises?

What do we learn from Luke about Simeon? What was he waiting for? Have you ever been moved by the Holy Spirit to do something? What was that like?

What was Simeon waiting for? How do you feel when you see God answer prayer? What was Simeon's response?

Jesus was to be a light expanding beyond his Jewish people to all people! When you think back over this last year, what has Jesus – the Light – revealed to you?

What do we learn from Simeon's prophecy about what Jesus was going to do? What did he mean by: *"As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."* In verse 35?

Read Isaiah 9:2-7.

What do you learn from this prophesy written 800 years before the birth of Jesus about Him?

Why is it important to know that what God promises He fulfills? What are some ways you can share the great news of Jesus' first advent with others in your life this week?

Advent Conspiracy

Be a part of a different story this Christmas, one that celebrates our King and brings hope to the watching world.

[Worship Fully] It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

[Spend Less] Before you think we're getting all Scrooge on you, let us explain what we mean. We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of \$450 billion a year every Christmas. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season.

[Give More] God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So, it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found at the mall. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving.

[Love All] When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, He became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas, we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. As we as a community of faith continue to take hold of these simple steps in Advent Conspiracy we have been able to feed and help and support many individuals and families in our community. One less gift, unbelievable presence in the name of Christ.

For more ideas on how to be a part of a different story this Christmas visit: adventconspiracy.org