**2021 Bible Studies:: Luke 2:22-40**

**A Session Outline - 40 mins total, but can be longer or flexible if you wish**

**Introduction - 10 mins (longer if you’re in a group I suspect!)**

1. How are you?
2. What notable things have happened recently?
3. Is there anything distracting you from focusing on God today? If yes, think or talk about that and then pray and give it to God as you begin.

**Time With the Bible - 15-20 mins**

*What does this passage tell me about God?* To answer this question, you might want to think about whether the passage speaks about God directly or indirectly. Is there a prophecy quoted, or does the passage remind you of another part of scripture? If so, spend some time following the leads. How does the passage remind you of what you’ve known about God before? Does it make you think differently about God than you have done before?

*What does this passage tell me about myself?* To answer this question you might want to ask how you felt as you read the passage and how you feel as you reflect on it now. Do you identify with a particular character? Does it make you feel happy or sad, hopeful, excited, confused or any other emotions?

If you feel challenged, or as if something in the passage is really speaking to your or feels personal to you today, spend a few minutes thinking: what is it? What about it feels important to you?

*What is this passage inviting me to do differently?*

As Christians we are meant to live according to the truth that is in Jesus and to not be the same as before we knew him (Ephesians 4:20-24). As we learn the good news of Jesus and the truth about his love we are bound to change.

Spend time thinking about things in your life you might want to be or to do differently as a result of today’s study and pray about those things.

For each session, we will also provide a few questions to pick out the key elements of the passage and try and help you to be guided through the study.

**Time in Prayer - 10 mins**

Each time you meet or spend time reflecting alone, make sure you leave plenty of time to pray. You could pray about:

The Church and its leaders, both ours, Churches nearby and the worldwide Church

Situations locally or in the world around us

Things shared by people during your time together

Those who are afraid, sick or those who are bereaved

Committing to God that you will follow through on what you’ve been invited to do by today’s study.

Your neighbours and the street you live in.

Those who govern us locally, nationally and internationally.

**Study Questions**

1. **Is this the first time you’ve read this story, or is it one you know well? Pause and reflect on this question and the impact the passage has had on you as you’ve read it this time.**
2. **What do you think God’s promise meant to Simeon? What do you think it was like for him to have it fulfilled?**
3. **Are there things that have been spoken about or ‘over’ you earlier in life that have had power over you in the past, for good or bad? How powerful is it when we keep a promise or someone keeps one made to us?**
4. **What do you think Mary and Joseph thought about what was happening and what was being said about their son and what his life would mean for them?**
5. **We’re told that Jesus was ‘filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on him’. What do you think this means?**
6. **If we are Christians - little Christs - and adopted into God’s family, do you think we can expect v40 to be fulfilled in our lives too and what do you think this looks like for us?**

**Something To Do This Week**

**Think about the people who spoke life and hope to you, perhaps the people who introduced Jesus to you. If they are still alive, get in touch with them and thank them.**