

CAROLING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Luke 2.26-40 | December 29, 2019
Prepared by Rev. Joshua T. Higgins
josh@gspc.org | 562/493.2553 x102

I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue keeping tune with the songs of the season, caroling our way through Christmas.

This week rejoice that Jesus has moved into our neighborhood and how we move into His.

II. Connecting with One Another

What do you want your life to be known for? The life we all live now becomes the inheritance we leave to the those around us when we are no longer here. Some of you may have not thought about this much, while others may have spent long hours contemplating this.

Try this brief exercise with others in your group or in your home: don't think back in time (about past successes or failures), rather think forward about your life, what do you want your life legacy to be known for in the years ahead?

III. Study the Text

a. Read Luke 2.22-40

a. Verses 22-35 are about Simeon, 36-40 about Anna.

b. Verses 1-21 of this chapter describe the birth and circumcision of Jesus. Now it is time for his "presentation." How is this ceremony described in verses 22-24? Leviticus 12:6-8 in the Old Testament describes the origin of this purification ceremony.

a. From the Leviticus passage and verse 24 we get a clue to the economic status of Mary and Joseph. What was it?

c. Look carefully at how Simeon is described in verse 25. Do you know anyone like this, who seems to have "the Holy Spirit resting on" them? Share a bit about them. What makes them special?

d. How do you think Simeon felt when he saw Jesus?

e. Now look at his "song" in verses 29-32. What does he say about the salvation that is brought by Jesus? Who were the "Gentiles?" (*Everyone who was not Jewish.*)



- a. If this “light of revelation” that Jesus will bring is for the Gentiles, and also for the glory of Israel, what is Simeon really saying about the revelation of Jesus?
- f. Look at Simeon’s further prophesy in verses 34-35. Why do you think there will be opposition to someone bringing the revelation of God? What do you think he meant when he said to Mary that “a sword will pierce your own soul”?
- g. How is Anna described in verses 36-37? Do you know any people who are very godly, who seem to worship God with genuine power? Share a bit about them.
- h. In verse 38, as soon as Anna saw Jesus, what are two things she does immediately in response? How is this similar to the shepherds’ response in verses 17 and 20?
 - a. What seems to be the first thing people do when they truly encounter Jesus?
 - b. How have you encountered Jesus in such a way that would make you want to tell others about him?
- i. Compare Simon and Anna. What did they have in common? What was their response to encountering Jesus?
- j. What characterizes those who genuinely seek Jesus? What do they seem to do as soon as they encounter him? How do the examples of these two people help you as you think about living your life, from this point forward with meaning?

IV. Pray

- a. Thank God that Jesus has moved into your neighborhood.
- b. Ask that God’s Holy Spirit will show you where Jesus is already at work in the world around you and how you can move towards a life that characterized by the love of Jesus.
- c. Lift up those you know who will be in need this New Year and that God, His church, and you would help provide for their needs in the name of Jesus.

