



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Anticipated

Suggested Week of Use: December 27, 2020

Core Passage: Luke 2:25-38

News Story Summary

For the first time in 13 years (2007), the Cleveland Browns have clinched its first winning season and have a possibility of making the playoffs for the first time since 2002. It is only the third winning season for the team in 20 years. One of the keys to their winning seasons is the team's quarterback, Baker Mayfield. The last time the Browns won a playoff game was in 1994, the year before Mayfield was born.

Fans have waiting a long time for their beloved team to be in highlight reels once again for the right reasons. One can only imagine what Browns fans might be willing to pay to see their team play a playoff game, especially with the limited availability of tickets due to health restrictions.

(For more information, search the internet using the phrase "2020 Cleveland Browns winning record".)

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention ideas, share the news summary of the Cleveland Browns' 2020 winning season. Ask: *What factors keep a person faithfully cheering for a team even though they have not posted a winning season in several years?* Highlight responses that relate to promises made by team executives and signs that point to an improvement. Ask: *What factors keep a person faithful to the promises made by God?* State: *Today's Bible study will focus on two people who had waited their entire lives to see God's promise fulfilled.* Complete the step using the Transition idea.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Respond idea under Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of the Cleveland Browns securing a winning season. Emphasize how their fans have patiently waited several years for the Browns to post a winning season. Say: *Simeon and Anna waited their entire lives for God's promised Messiah.* Point out that both Simeon and Anna trusted God and had a deep walk with Him, so they trusted Him to keep His promises. Say: *Whatever situation we may be in, we can be confident that God keeps His promises. He is faithful, so we can trust Him.*