

A LONG WAIT

CENTRAL TRUTH

In this week's passage, we'll see Joseph and Mary participate in a Jewish tradition that involved presenting the baby Jesus to the Lord at the temple. There, the family encountered two Spirit-filled individuals who worshiped and celebrate the infant Messiah. Like them, **we are called to praise Jesus, the Savior**—His arrival is at the heart of Christmas!

KEY QUESTION

↑ **How do we see the Lord's faithfulness in this passage? How can this encourage us?**

The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not die prior to seeing the Messiah. The Lord stayed true to His promise, as Simeon not only saw the infant Messiah but held Him in his arms. The Lord was faithful to His promise to send a Savior.

KEEP IN MIND

- 1 Simeon and Anna were two Spirit-filled individuals who encountered Jesus, the Messiah. While the Holy Spirit came upon them in a unique and special way, remind students that, today, the Spirit resides within all believers. We are not left to our own devices; the Spirit enables us to love the Lord and love those around us.
- 1 In this passage, we learn about a prophetess named Anna who was devoted to the Lord and modeled a commitment to spiritual disciplines. Think of some ways you can encourage the students in your group to practice spiritual disciplines. Come prepared with insights and helps that have worked for you in your spiritual formation journey.

APPLICATION

↔ **How can we express gratitude to the Lord and a desire to tell others about Jesus?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Lead students to see that Jesus, the Messiah, is alone worthy of our total allegiance and praise. He is the ultimate demonstration of God's faithfulness to His people.

FOR THE LEADER: The Holy Spirit who resides within believers empowers us to praise the Lord in our words and actions. Encourage students to find both comfort and power in the Spirit's presence, and remember to rely on the Spirit's presence as you lead students.

7 ARROWS

- ↻ What does this passage say?
- ↑ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ← What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ↔ How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- ↓ What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- ↻ How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?