

Grow in confidence – with Luke’s Gospel

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

4th Meeting THEME: The change of Christmas

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group’s meeting. At home read Luke 2:21-40. If you want to do more, you can also begin to read in Luke 2 verse 1.

20.00 – 20.10 Start Someone says: I can hardly see how the birth of Jesus changed anything in the world. What is your response?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray Let Ephesians 1 : 16-23, especially verse 18, inspire your opening prayer.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage Read: Luke 2:21-40

Look again at verses 21 - 28 What Simeon had been waiting for

- How many references to the law do you see in this passage?
- What was Simeon waiting and looking for?

Information: Jesus was a Jewish child. His circumcision pointed to the fact that God had a covenant with His people. They were His possession and the law described how they were expected to live as His people. But nobody could keep that law. The Jewish people lived under the law and feared their failures. The gentile peoples lived without God’s law and feared that it would be imposed on them.

- What change would there come through Jesus concerning the law of God? (See also: Gal. 4:4-7 or Gal. 2:13-14)

Look again at verses 29 - 32 What Simeon saw in Jesus

- Although natural eyes would only see a normal baby, Simeon, through the Holy Spirit saw more. What did he see?

Look again at verses 33 - 38 What Simeon saw that was upcoming

- What did Simeon see that was upcoming?
- What is the role of Anna in this passage?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: the change of Christmas

Jesus’ birth has changed things! We do no longer need to try to fulfil the law. He fulfilled it on our behalf. We may live by grace, by faith in His completed work and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The time of the new covenant has come. Life through the Spirit is not only for one nation, but for all the nations of the world. At the same time, it is true that whoever wants to live in unity with the Spirit-filled Messiah, will not face less, but rather more pain, problems and even persecution (see f.i. II Tim. 3:12).

Take a moment to think which pain Mary has faced in her life. And which comfort.

Do you currently feel pain about something? Has God something to say to you today about it? Take some moments of silence and share.

20.50 – 21.00 End Share what came to your mind and take enough time to pray for each other.