



Going Deeper Questions  
"Simeon"  
Brynn Harrington - 12/4/2022

**Sermon Scripture Passage**

Isaiah 11:1-12; Luke 2:22-40

---

**Fun icebreaker question**

What is one favorite holiday tradition from your ethnic background or hometown?

---

**Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret**

Last week's discipleship cycle from Pastor Ethan was:

"This week, take some time to intentionally and prayerfully think about the things that you might be waiting for; think about how hard it is to wait for them. And then think of ways that God has proved that his word will never fail, that he is Immanuel - God with us. Maybe that's through experiences in your own life, or maybe that's through the experiences of others. Pray that God will remind you, every day, that he is Immanuel - that he is with you."

What are some experiences that came to mind?

---

**Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?**

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged

---

---

or confused you?

---

### **My Story**

- 1) What promises are you waiting on? When was there a time you were tired of waiting and chose to try and make something happen yourself? What was the result of your efforts?
  - 2) What is the difference between "if-waiting" and "when-waiting"? Can you think of an example of each?
  - 3) What is the difference between waiting with expectation and waiting with expectancy? What does the heart look like in each example?
  - 4) What are some ways that we can remember the promises of God when we are tempted to lose hope? If you were to think about the thread that keeps you coming back to Christ, what is that thread?
- 

### **Dive Deeper**

- 1) What were the promises that Simeon was waiting on? Why did the Messiah matter so much to the Jewish people of his day?
- 2) In the sermon, Pastor Brynn shared that the Hebrew words for "hope" literally mean "to wait." How is waiting a part of cultivating hope? Can you have hope without waiting?
- 3) In the sermon, we talked about how God doesn't always give us everything we want in this life. What ARE the promises we can count on?

Let's re-read Luke 2:22-40 one more time.

- Faith: What is this passage asking me to believe about God or myself?
  - Hope: What hope does this passage offer us as God's people?
  - Love: What is this passage asking us to do? How do we put these words into action in our lives?
- 

### **Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively**

Sometimes hearing stories about other people's faith can help bolster our own. This week, ask another Christian what keeps them coming back to Christ when the waiting feels long.

---

---

### **A special question for couples and families**

Hope isn't a future aspiration or optimism. It also isn't something you choose. It is cultivated through struggle. That can be hard for parents, who often want to protect their kids from experiencing pain - what is the risk when we shield our kids too much from pain? What is the promise when we let them struggle? How is that difficult to do?

---