



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christmas Unwrapped Series Part #2 – Waiting on Christmas

Small Group Discussion Guide on Luke 2:25-38

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Luke 2:25-38 aligns with the core value of **Outreach** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. We are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission by intentionally reaching lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping them live a life that glorifies God. (Matthew 28:18-20).

The sermon's call to wait faithfully on God's promises—trusting His timing, praising His redemption, and sharing the good news of hope—echoes the heart of true outreach: living expectant lives that point others to the Redeemer who has come. This message challenges us to deepen our outreach beyond Sunday gatherings, aligning with our church's mission to "Reach, Teach, and Serve others for the Cause of Christ" as we equip the faithful who desire to glorify God by stepping out from seasons of waiting, sharing testimonies of His faithfulness, and inviting the lost to experience the hope of Christmas, turning others toward the Savior who redeems.

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

"Observing God's Word"

Imagine two faithful individuals lingering in the temple courts—years etched into their faces, prayers rising like incense amid the bustle, doubt whispering "How long, O Lord?"—yet holding fast to a divine promise, declaring hope amid the delay. Suddenly, perspective shifts; anticipation blooms as the heart anchors in the unchanging faithfulness of the Redeemer. In Luke 2:25-38, the narrative's raw encounter echoes like a divine whisper, reminding us that God's promises endure forever, turning patient waiting into a powerful act of witness.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Luke 2:25-38 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Simeon and Anna waiting expectantly, encountering Jesus, calling God's people to respond to His faithfulness with bold proclamation.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about the words and actions of Simeon, Anna, and the Holy Spirit in this passage? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?
- What are the main lessons that you learn in Luke 2:25-38?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

As we dig deeper into Luke 2:25-38, we meet Simeon and Anna – ordinary believers whose lives were marked by faithful waiting on God’s promise of redemption. Their story isn’t just about personal hope; it’s a call to witness, showing how God’s timing leads to praise and proclamation. Simeon, guided by the Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the light for all nations, while Anna erupts in thanksgiving and shares the news with everyone waiting for Jerusalem’s redemption. This passage reveals that waiting on God anchors us in hope, compelling us to trust His perfect plan and share His salvation with a world in need.

Quote – “Waiting on God is an act of faith that demonstrates the condition of our hearts.” – **Steve Farrar**

- What does this quote teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

Truth #1 – Waiting for Christmas Stirs Your Heart, Deepens Your Wonder, and Draws You Closer to the Lord (v. 25-27)

Simeon was promised he would not die until he saw the Messiah, and even though decades passed, he kept showing up in the temple, led by the Spirit, trusting that God would keep His word in His perfect time.

- Where in your life are you tempted to give up because the answer seems delayed?
- How does Simeon’s example encourage you to keep trusting and keep showing up?

Truth #2 – Waiting for Christmas Fills You With Anticipation and Prompts You to Praise the Lord Who Rescues and Redeems (v. 28-35)

The moment Simeon held Jesus, years of waiting exploded into one of the most beautiful hymns of praise in Scripture declaring that this child is salvation for every nation and the glory of Israel.

- When God finally answers a long-held prayer, what keeps you from bursting into praise like Simeon? How can you change this in your life?
- How can praising God in the fulfillment strengthen our outreach to others who still wait?

Truth #3 – Waiting for Christmas Anchors You in Hope and Compels You to Share the Good News of Great Joy (v. 35-38)

Anna, an 84-plus-year-old prophetess who never left the temple, instantly recognized Jesus and “began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Her waiting became her witness.

- Who in your circle is “waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem” – searching for hope, healing, or meaning?
- Like Anna, how can your story of waiting and seeing God’s faithfulness become a lighthouse for someone else this Christmas season?

Section #3 – EMBRACE

“Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Luke 2:25-38.

Identify Your Waiting Season

- Think of the area where the fog feels thickest—healing, reconciliation, direction, a prodigal, or something else. Write down one specific way you will “keep showing up” this week (prayer, Scripture, worship) to stay anchored in hope like Simeon and Anna.

Practice Spirit-Led Expectancy

- Inspired by Simeon’s movement in the Spirit and Anna’s night-and-day devotion, start a waiting journal. Each day note one promise you’re clinging to and one act of trust (a prayer, a fast, a praise). Thank God that His timing is perfect and ask Him to lift the fog at just the right moment.

Share Your Redemption Story

- Waiting fulfilled becomes witness, as the sermon teaches. Commit to one act of outreach this week—tell one person who is still waiting that “my eyes have seen your salvation” in Jesus. Invite a friend to Christmas Eve services, share your testimony over coffee, or simply declare that the Redeemer has come and is mighty to save. Discuss with the group how you can pray for and encourage each other in these steps.

Memorize and Reflect

- Memorize the sermon’s memory verse, Luke 2:30 (ESV): “For my eyes have seen your salvation.” Reflect on how this truth turns personal waiting into public witness and invites God’s power into your everyday outreach. Share with the group how this verse challenges or inspires you this Christmas season.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

As a group, pray for one another to embrace the power of waiting on the Lord this Christmas season and begin asking the Lord to direct you to people that need to hear about Jesus.

Prayer: Father, thank You that You are never late and that every promise finds its “Yes” in You. Help us trust Your timing and wait on your working in our life. Turn our waiting into worship and our worship into witness as you direct us to others that need to hear about Jesus. Give us courage this Christmas season to tell someone that the Redeemer has come and is mighty to save. In Jesus’ name, Amen.