

simeon's song

Luke 2:21-38

Forty days after the birth of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph took their son to Jerusalem. Mary was required by law to offer a sacrifice of a lamb and a dove for her own sin. Since she was poor, she had the option of offering either two turtledoves or two pigeons.

Through Luke's narrative of these events, we learn of Simeon, a devout Jew who was waiting for the Messiah. The Jews had been waiting for centuries for the arrival of the Savior, the "consolation of Israel." He would be the one who would rescue them from their sin.

▶ Read Luke 2:26

- ▶ What did Simeon learn through the Holy Spirit?

Simeon was there at the temple when Mary and Joseph arrived. Imagine his joy when he held the fulfillment of God's faithfulness in his own arms!

▶ Read Luke 2:29-32

- ▶ Express Simeon's "song" in your own words.

- ▶ According to Simeon's song, who could be saved through Jesus?

▶ Read Luke 2:33

- ▶ What was Mary and Joseph's reaction to Simeon's song? Why do you think they responded in this way?

▶ Read Luke 2:36-38

- ▶ How did Anna's words confirm what Simeon just said?

Luke 2:21-38

²¹On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

²²When the time came for the purification required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

»mon

When a building is condemned it is marked for destruction. But God never intended people to be destroyed—He wants to save them. Think about God's love for the people you know who aren't Christians.

»tues

God's purpose is to save "the world." Try making this more personal. As you read the memory verse through a few times, substitute your name for the last two uses of the phrase "the world." Jesus came to save you.

»wed

Movies and books sometimes have "cliff-hangers"—the person in peril is saved just in the nick of time. In real life, though, it's unwise to put off trusting in Christ to save you. Take a serious look at your relationship with God today.

»thurs

Just as there is a door to enter a room, or a bridge to cross a stream, so there is a Savior to bring us to God. Are you going "through Him," or trying to find another way? Think—what am I depending on for my salvation?

»fri

Have you ever tried to find your way around in an unfamiliar city? Did you admit you were lost and ask for help? If you sense you are spiritually "lost," spend a moment in prayer asking God to point you in the right direction.

»sat

God is offering you the gift of salvation—eternal life with Him. Have you received it by saying with your heart: "Yes, Lord, I have sinned against You, and I need You to save me"? If not, consider doing it now.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
—John 3:17

Be My Example

When Sage walked onto the bus, she noticed people staring. She tugged down her shirt to hide the small belly ring. She found a seat and slipped in her earbuds, humming along with the tunes on her iPod. Two teens turned and stared. She finally asked them if they needed anything.

"Just checking out your belly ring," one guy said. "No one in youth group has one."

"Oh, and I just wanted to warn you that your counselor is going to so take your phone. They're against camp rules," said the girl sitting next to him.

Sage had just connected with God the Wednesday before. When the youth leader talked about camp, her mom scraped the money together. She was excited that Sage might make new friends. Two years before, when Sage's father left, Sage changed schools. Her mom worked and that left a lot of alone time. New friends entered the picture, but so did trouble.

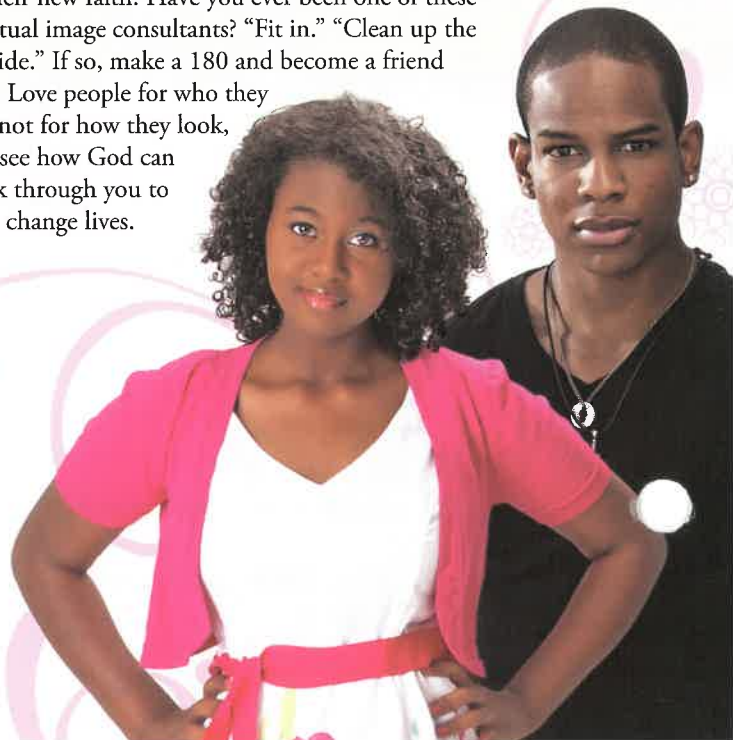
That's why winter camp sounded like such a great idea.

Until now. These kids made Sage feel self-conscious and not "good" enough to even be on the same bus.

You hear a lot of sermons about how the media tries to make

people fit a certain image, but sometimes believers do the same thing. Sage was looking for new friends and a new way of life, but all she received was a fashion and music critique.

First Thessalonians 4:9 reminds us to care about people the same way that Christ did. He loved the disciples from the very beginning, even when they were raw and unsure of their new faith. Have you ever been one of these spiritual image consultants? "Fit in." "Clean up the outside." If so, make a 180 and become a friend first. Love people for who they are, not for how they look, and see how God can work through you to help change lives.



Everyone has the desire to be known—not necessarily superstar status—but to have someone who completely understands you. Best friends are like that, but many times they don't “get you” or they even don't care. But what if there was a way that you could be completely known? Absolutely everything good and bad that you ever thought, did, or wanted to do, he or she could see. Would your friend still love you? Or would he or she want to have anything to do with you?

It's easy to think that your dark secrets are enough to disqualify you from God's love or the love of others. But we know from Romans 3:23 that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The Bible also says, “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8b). Even if you've read these verses before, look a little closer. Those who struggle with knowing God's feelings for them find an incredible hope here. God's love for us is not based on how perfect we are. Often when we realize how much sin we have in our lives,

we don't give it to God because we don't want Him to see us soiled. But guess what? God is not shocked by your dirty, filthy sin. He's seen it; He knows it's there. He doesn't look at it and you and shake His head and wag a condemning finger. Instead He tells us how He responds in the story of the prodigal son.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet’ ” (Luke 15:20-22).

We can be fully known by God with the confidence that He will never reject us. Incredible, isn't it?

God's Promise for Salvation

JESUS

Has anyone ever asked you
"Who is Jesus?"
The man who is King of the Jews
And came to die to save us.

Did you simply give a sigh,
And let your shoulders shrug
Then walk on by
To give him someone else to bug?

Or did you stop and smile,
And put your business aside
To sit and talk a while
About why Jesus did truly die?

Did you tell him about God's love,
And His gift to all mankind?
How Jesus came from up above
To heal the sick and blind.

by
Kayla
Prestel

Not only did He perform
Miracles that only faith will receive
He made us all to be reborn,
Give love, and most of all believe.

Did you offer to pray
With your innocent new friend
So he too could surely say
He would be in heaven
at the end?

Or did you simply look away
And walk by fast
To let a friend slowly stray
Because you let the opportunity pass?

Dare to Share

