

## **Jan 5/25 - "Becoming Clear-Sighted" – Luke 2:22-40, Psalm 27** **(Leader's Guide)**

1. Have you set certain priorities for the new year? What are some of them? Share as you feel comfortable.
2. What are some ways that Luke sets his story in a Jewish context?

*He sets this story (and others) in the Temple in Jerusalem. He makes it clear that Jesus' parents act in accordance with the Law of the Lord. (See if your group can find the five places that is specifically mentioned in this passage!) He shows them fulfilling all the requirements after a firstborn son: circumcision, dedication, and purification after childbirth.*

3. Why does Luke mention Anna in his story?

*Luke pairs male-female stories and characters in his gospel, as a way of pointing out that the gospel is for everyone. Anna's story is recorded to show that women, too, share in the gospel and can recognise Jesus.*

4. Read Psalm 27. How does it describe Simeon and Anna's experiences? Can you relate to any of it?

*Psalm 27:4 describes Anna's life rather well – and one could imagine Simeon praying Psalm 27:8, 13-14 as he waited for the revelation of the Messiah.*

5. Karen drew a connection between Simeon and Anna's focus on the 'spiritual disciplines' and their ability to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. Do you think that is a fair connection? In what ways do the disciplines of grace shape us?

*Spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, giving, serving, and scripture reading all open our eyes and ears to God's work in the world and in our lives, and attune our ears to hear the direction of the Holy Spirit.*

6. What are some of the 'markers of success' in our society? How do they align with, or differ from, what Anna and Simeon's lives looked like?

*Open for discussion – some markers might be getting married or having children or grandchildren; making a certain amount of money; getting degrees; establishing businesses; etc. Simeon & Anna didn't have any of this – but their focus on eternal things enabled them to see Christ.*