

# Weekly Theme

W/C 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017



“Planning for the future”

## **Luke 2: 22-40**

*When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'*

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'*

*And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'*

*There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

*When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.*

*An elderly woman in frail health was speaking with her doctor and expressing her hope that she would have the strength to live just a few more months so that she could celebrate the birth of her first grand-child. Sure enough, the day came and the woman was present and well enough to hold the little child in her arms.*

*When the woman went back to her doctor he suggested that it would be important to set a new goal so that she had something to look forward to,*

something to “keep her going”. “Well”, the woman pondered, “my Son has just buy me a new fridge with a 10 year guarantee!”

Waiting in hope is such an important part of what it means to be a people of faith. And, when you think about it, it really is a natural part of what it means to be a human being. The farmer plants a crop and has to wait for nature to take its course, an expectant woman must wait for a baby to develop in her womb. There is nothing that can be done to rush things, they take the time that they take.

In Luke's Gospel we are introduced to a couple of characters who have been waiting for a long time for a promise to be fulfilled.

Mary and Joseph bring the baby Jesus to the Temple in order to fulfil their religious duty of making an offering for their firstborn. And here they come across this old couple. We don't know much about these two, Luke tells us that Simeon is touched by the Holy spirit and comes to the temple. Anna, it seems, is just there all the time.

Both Anna and Simeon were people who looked forward with hope. When God acts and the promise that they have been waiting for is fulfilled Anna and Simeon are in tune. They do not miss what is taking place before them. Simeon recognises that his wait is over. That the long-awaited promise of God has been fulfilled in the Child of Jesus.

We sometimes find it hard to wait. It's no wonder as our culture is always in such a rush. Fast food, text messaging, on demand entertainment. We are very quickly losing a sense of what it means to appreciate anticipation.

But the best things in life are worth waiting for. As Christians we are a people who long for the coming of God's Kingdom. What helps when it comes to waiting in faith is knowing that we are not the first to do so. Our tradition is rich in the stories of those who have gone before us. Stories about real people with real lives and real desires just like our own.

**Loving Father, help us to be a people hope. Be with us in every step of our journey through life. May all we do and say give you praise.**

**Amen.**

## **Form Tutor**

The aim of the week:

In our society today we are not very good at waiting we want things and we want them now. But waiting can be a good thing, it helps us to plan and prepare for our future. What is it important to think about when we make plans for our own futures?

## **Day 1**

### **Tutor:**

Read Scripture

### **Student Prayer**

Loving Father, today give me the ability to be able to plan for my future wisely.

## **Day 2**

Think about the society in which we live.

### **Tutor:**

Are some of the problems that we have in society today related to the fact that people are selfish and only want to look after themselves? Think about people who get themselves into a spiral of debt because they don't want to wait until they have saved up to buy something, but buy it on credit instead. What are the problems that can happen as a result of this way of thinking?

### **Student Prayer**

Lord help me to be patient as I plan my future

Amen

### **Day 3**

Think about the world in which we live

#### **Tutor:**

The current world recession that we find ourselves in, came about through the collapse in our banking system. This was as a result of people in the banking industry being greedy. Still today people are making vast amount of money by exploiting the poor and vulnerable in our world, what can we do in a small ways to bring about change?

#### **Student Prayer.**

Lord help me to stand up for what is right today.

Amen

### **Day 4**

Think about our community

#### **Tutor**

How often do we want to get something without putting the work in for it. To achieve anything in life involves us putting in effort and hard work. How many times have you heard a teacher say you have to work hard to get good results in your work or examinations. It's true, perhaps today is the day when we start to really believe it and to change our outlook on life.

#### **Student Prayer**

Help me today Lord to appreciate those who help me to achieve my full potential in life.

Amen.

### **Day 5**

Think about our family

#### **Tutor**

The people who look after us at home, enable us to achieve our full potential in life they encourage and support us at every stage. Do we ever stop and say thank you. Perhaps we could start today.

## **Students prayer**

Thank you Lord for the live of my family.

Amen

## **Other prayers you may like to use**

Lord, thank you so much for all the blessings you have provided in my life. I have so much, and I know it is all because of you. I ask you today to continue to provide me with these blessings and to provide me with the opportunities I need to continue to do your work here.

Amen.

You always stand beside me. You provide me with a future full of your love, blessings, and guidance. I know that, no matter how bad things get, you will always be by my side. I know I may not see you. I know I may not feel you, but I thank You for giving us Your Word that tells us you are here.

Amen.

You know my dreams, Lord, and I know it is a lot to ask to realise those dreams, but I ask that you hear my prayer of hope. I would like to think that my hopes and dreams are all part of your plans for me, but I trust that you always know better. I put my dreams in your hands to mold and fit to your will. I surrender my hopes to you. In your holy name,

Amen.

God our Father, the qualities I see lived out so well in some people are a reflection of your own goodness, and I know that I have much to learn from other people who reflect your image and likeness in different ways. Inspire me to respect others fully as my equals, seeing and loving in them what you see and love in them.

Amen

God our Father, you call each of us by name, and you treasure each of us individually as though no-one else exists. Inspire us to respect and value each person who comes into our lives this day.

Amen.