

LUKE 2: 21 - 39 STUDY NOTES

As you look back on 2017 share some of the spiritual highlights that come to mind.
How have you seen God working in yourself, others, the church, around the world?

How have you been stretched?

What new things have you learned of the Lord this year?

READ Luke 2: 21 – 39 Simeon, Anna and the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

Does anything strike you about this passage?

Is there anything you don't understand? (See also Leviticus 12: 1-8, Genesis 17: 9-14 and Romans 2: 29)

What do we learn about God?

What godly qualities do you see exhibited in Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna that would be good to emulate? Give examples.

What are the challenges for us from this passage as we go into a new year?

- Simeon and Anna clearly had goals and priorities that were God-focussed.

What about our goals and priorities for the coming year?

Are we going to use our time to work and pray for God's kingdom as our priority as Simeon and Anna did?

What about prioritising bible reading and prayer? How practically are we going to do this?

Are there ways you can help each other to maintain godly goals and priorities?

- The words of Simeon about Jesus being our light are also a challenge.

Are we willing to live in that light – to walk his paths and allow him to put the spotlight on us and show us the dirty and dishonouring bits that need cleaning up?

What might stop you doing that?

Do you want 2018 to be a year like no other – where God is able to use you in ways you never imagined possible? What would you most like him to do in and through you?

Ask God to show you areas you can be working on for the coming year that have yet to be transformed so that every minute of every day can become worship to God and honouring to him.

Pray for each other in the group that you might become even more effective instruments for God to use in bringing in his kingdom.

- Simeon was anointed and alert to the Holy Spirit and led by Him (Anna too).

Pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and anointing over members of the group. Let's be open to more of the Him – growing Christ-likeness in us and giving us more power and gifts to serve and honour Him.

- Simeon and Anna recognised who Jesus was but many didn't then and don't recognise who he is today.

Share the names of those who are most on your hearts – people who don't yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for these friends and loved ones.

Ask that the Lord would remove the scales from their eyes and give revelation of who Jesus is and what he has done for them.

Pray that God would pour out his gift of faith on those we have named and that this year we would see much fruit for his kingdom.