

# LET THERE BE JOY

## BIG IDEA

Faithfully expect God to work even when it seems impossible!

## SCRIPTURE

As a group, read Luke 2:25-39.

## OPENER

If there was one thing God could do for you in your lifetime, what would it be?

## QUESTIONS

1. John told a story about his son, Jack, being upset when John took one of the Lego pieces that Jack wanted to use. Jack said “Dad, you’re ruining my plan!” Have you ever felt that God was ruining your plans? That He was taking away a piece you thought you needed? Share with the Group.
2. Simeon was promised by God that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah. How important is it for people to see God’s salvation, Jesus Christ, before they see death? (1 Timothy 1:15-16). Who do you know who needs to be rescued?
3. All scripture (and history) is about “Do you believe that God is good, and do you trust him?” Where in your life do you most need to believe this right now?
4. Scripture tells us that Simeon was a man who was led by the Spirit of God, taught by the Word of God, and obedient to the will of God; and therefore, was privileged to see the Lord’s Messiah. What must each of us do to be prepared and available to the Lord, so we can hear Him when he tells us to “go to the temple”? (Luke 2:27)
5. Where in your life do you need to get “back on your horse” and turn dread into anticipation?
6. Both Simeon and Anna were expecting to see the Lord’s Messiah. How do we stay watchful and expectant as we are praying for God to reach people we love? Is it more difficult in our current culture? (Hebrews 11:1)
7. John ended the message talking about how there are people praying for loved ones, and we may be the person who can impact and guide them to Jesus. Who could you invite to the Christmas services this year? Who do you need to keep praying for with a faith like Simeon and Anna? (1 Timothy 2:3b-4)

## TAKEAWAY

1. When it hasn't happened, God is doing something bigger than you expected!
2. When it hasn't happened, God is doing something better than you expected!
3. Cling daily to God's promises, worshipping and praying.
4. Don't give up because God hasn't worked as quickly as you expected.
5. God knows where He is taking you. It is His plan and His timing.

## REFERENCES

Luke 2:25-39

1 Timothy 1:15-16

1 Timothy 2:3-4

Hebrews 11:1

1 Cor 2:9

Rom 8:28

Jeremiah 29:11

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the last of the five Christmas songs found in Luke, Simeon (verses, 29-32) worships and blesses God for keeping His promise in sending the Messiah. In what ways do you share your excitement as you celebrate the birth of Jesus with others? (See the other four original Christmas songs in the Gospel of Luke: Elizabeth's in Luke 1:42-45; Mary's in Luke 1:46-56; Zechariah's in Luke 1:67-79; angels in Luke 2:13-14)