

Home Group Discussion Questions
Sunday 17th November

Text: Luke 2:21-38

Icebreaker: In your looks and character, who do you most resemble: your mother or your father? Does that bother you?

Discussion Questions:

1. Following Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offer two birds as a sacrifice, in place of a lamb. **Read Leviticus 12:8** to see the significance of this.

[They're poor.]

After last week's sermon, and this new detail, what do you think of how God humbled himself in Christ and what that says about human pride?

How much do you struggle with pride?

2. Simeon and Anna were older people who clearly knew what it was to walk with God.

Can you think of any older Christians who you respect/admire/look up to? What is it about them that you want to emulate?

What steps can we take to help us finish our race well?

3. In many ways Simeon and Anna represent the longing of God's people for the Messiah. They find that longing met in Jesus. Today, the average person doesn't long for a messiah.

What do people *long* for? – if anything.

In what ways does Jesus still answer those longings? (or not, as the case might be).

4. Simeon meets Jesus and can now die happy.

How much does death play a part in your thinking? Do you fear it?

5. Simeon said Jesus would cause the fall and rising of many and be a sign that was spoken against. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:23 and 2 Cor 2:14-17.**

Is Christ still controversial?

Before you became a Christian (or even now) was there anything about Jesus, or the Christian faith, that you stumbled over, and struggled to come to terms with? How were those issues resolved for you?