

WHY WORSHIP?

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS | LEADER'S GUIDE

1

Jesus Presented in the Temple | Luke 2:21-35

Take a new look at a familiar account! Read the whole Biblical account of Jesus Presented at the Temple. Reread each verse as you take a closer look at each one. Verse highlights are provided below. Suggested guiding thoughts are provided to curb thoughts toward desired goal answers. Support thorough discussion and make use of suggested further discussion topics as desired.

- **Luke 2:22-24 | Why do you go to worship?**
 - **Verse Highlights |** According to the Law of Moses, as it is written in the Law of the Lord, to offer a sacrifice
 - **Guiding Thoughts |** We witness a gathering of believers attended here by a family. Joseph and Mary went to consecrate, to dedicate their son to the Lord. They went to offer sacrifices to God. They went to the temple, obeying God's commands to do so. All of these are ways we worship God with our life.
 - **Goal |** Personal answers will vary. Emphasize sanctified life motivation.
- **Luke 2:25 | How do you see faith in those you worship with?**
 - **Verse Highlights |** Simeon was righteous and devout and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
 - **Guiding Thoughts |** Simeon was clearly a believer, inwardly and outwardly. Those around him witnessed his faith by the way he lived. Living out our sanctified

life sets us apart from the sinful world. We are encouraged to live our faith as we see faith in those around us, especially in public worship.

- **Goal** | Answers may vary. Emphasize fruits of the Spirit.
- **Further Discussion** | If you brought a friend to church and they simply observed, how could your friend witness your faith and learn more about it?
- **Luke 2:26** | Where is Christ seen in the musical aspects of worship? Why is it vital that Christ is the center of music in worship?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Simeon would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Simeon got to see Christ with his very own eyes. Though we may not hold Jesus in our arms, we can see him in worship. Through the eyes of faith God shows us his Son. You have seen the Lord's Christ as revealed to you in the Word of God.
 - **Goal** | The hymns, songs and psalms tell of Christ and his work to save us. The plan of salvation is central to all accounts in the Bible- hymns, songs and psalms highlight this. Hymns and songs tell the story of Jesus and what it means for us in our sanctified lives.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Hymns and songs and all other forms of music used in worship are to be used as a way to worship. Worship is not about ourselves, it is about

God and what he has done. To strip Christ of his central role in any form of worship, musical or not, is to place something else above God, to worship a false god.

- **Goal** | Worship is about God, musical aspects of worship thus are to be about God.
- **Luke 2:29-32** | What can you learn from Simeon's song? What can you learn from our songs in worship?
 - **Verse Highlights** | As you have promised
 - **Goal** | God keeps his promises.
 - **Verse Highlights** | Dismiss your servant in peace
 - **Goal** | God grants peace. Death is not an earthly peace but God's peace is not of this world.
 - **Verse Highlights** | Your salvation
 - **Goal** | Salvation is all God. We are saved solely by his gracious gift of salvation. Salvation is not ours to earn or choose- it is simply God's to give.
 - **Verse Highlights** | For all people; to the Gentiles; for Israel
 - **Goal** | Salvation is for all people- the whole world- you and me! No matter who you are or what you've done, God wants all to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
 - **Further Discussion** | In large or small groups, look at a certain hymn, song or psalm and pull out specific

teachings taught in it. Discuss what is clear and what could be clearer.

- **Luke 2:33** | How do you respond to musical worship?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Joseph and Mary marveled at what was said about Jesus in Simeon's song.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Musical pieces in worship teach us about our marvelous God. Joseph and Mary were in awe of what God taught them about Jesus through Simeon's song. God teaches us through music in worship too.
 - **Goal** | Personal answers will vary.