

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for December 29, 2024
Christmas Classics: Sleepless in Seattle



**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with a CGS
Community or family**

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**
- **CONNECT**
 - What's a moment in your life when you felt something unexpectedly meaningful happened—like a chance meeting, a word of encouragement, or an answered prayer?

- **GROW**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2:22-40

- o Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- o What is the significance of Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus at the temple and following the customs of the law? How does this set the stage for God's activity in this story?
- o Who were Simeon and Anna, and what do we know about their roles and faith journeys from the text?
- o How does this passage connect to the larger story of God's promises to Israel and their fulfillment in Jesus?
- o Simeon is described as "righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel." How do you think his life of waiting prepared him to recognize God's activity in this moment?
- o In verses 29-32, Simeon praises God for revealing salvation in Jesus. What stands out to you about his perspective on Jesus' mission?
- o Simeon prophesies that Jesus will cause the "falling and rising of many" and be a "sign that will be opposed." What does this reveal about the way God works in the world and in individual lives?
- o Anna's response is one of immediate thanksgiving and proclamation to others (v. 38). What does her reaction teach us about recognizing and responding to God's activity in our lives?
- o Both Simeon and Anna are elderly and have been waiting a long time. How does their patience and trust in God encourage you in your own seasons of waiting?
- o How might we practice attentiveness to God's activity in our own stories, as Simeon and Anna did in theirs?

- **SERVE** *others*

- Reflecting on your own life, where have you seen God's presence and activity, even if it was only clear in hindsight? How might you share that story with others to encourage their faith?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**