

# UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS

## What elements make up your Christmas season?

- Gifts
- Family Gatherings
- Debt
- Traffic
- Parties
- Stress
- Baking Treats
- Shopping
- Black Friday
- Conflict
- Eating Treats
- Decorations
- Other things ...

## Write some notes from our text today ...

[Luke 2:21-40 ... Jesus presented at the temple]

## How can I position myself to not miss Jesus this Christmas?

Be a person who is \_\_\_\_\_ [v38]

This requires ...

## Encounter these verses today:

*circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side*

### Luke 2:21-40 [Jesus presented in the temple]

<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

<sup>22</sup>When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>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."

<sup>25</sup>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 upon him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup>"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>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, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>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.

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

### Digging Deeper this week ... ADVENT READINGS

*To maximize the Advent Season (or season of preparation), we would like to encourage you to read the following scriptures and ponder the questions that follow.*

**Day 1)** Isaiah 52:7-10 ... what should we be looking for?

**Day 2)** Micah 5:2-5a ... what does He provide for us?

**Day 3)** Isaiah 40:9-11 ... How does He care for us?

**Day 4)** John 1:1-9 ... How does the Word & Light impact your daily life today?

**Day 5)** John 1:9-18 ... How can you receive Him today?

