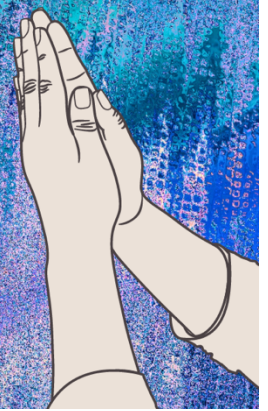


"My eyes have seen your salvation"

Luke 2:1-40



Warm up question:

- What has been the thing to stick out to you as you've thought about the Christmas story this year?

Read Luke 2:1-20

1. What is the significance of Jesus being from the family line of David? Who else do you recognise from this family line? (see Luke 3:23-38)
2. What might you be thinking/feeling as you settled in to the stable for the night if you were Mary/Joseph?
3. In verse 10, the angel told the shepherd that there is "good news that will cause great joy for all the people." What is the significance of it being for "all the people?"
4. What is the significance of Jesus being both the Saviour, the Messiah and the Lord?
5. When the shepherds found Mary, Joseph and Jesus, the things they heard and saw were just as they had been told. How would this have made them feel?
6. Mary "treasured up" and "pondered" all these things in her heart. What were 'these things'? Have a think back to when the angel first visited her, all the way through to the shepherd's visitation.

Read Luke 2:21-40

Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple to fulfil the purification rites required by the Law of Moses.

7. Why did every firstborn male need to be consecrated to the Lord? (see Exodus 13:1-12)
8. Why did they offer a pair of doves or two young pigeons and not something else? (see Leviticus 12:1-8)
9. In what ways is the Spirit working in this passage?
10. What is the same and what is different between what the angel says to the shepherds in verses 10-14 & to what Simeon & Anna say in verses 29-32 & 36-38?
11. What is similar between Joseph's and Mary's reactions in verses 19 & 33?
12. What is significant about Simeon's warning to Mary in verses 34-35? How was shown to be true in Jesus' ministry? In what way did a sword pierce Mary's own soul?
13. What stands out to you in verses 39-40?

Rubber hits the road:

- If the gift of Christmas is really for all peoples, how will you help to share the message this week?

PRAYER

King Jesus, you have been Saviour, Messiah, and Lord since the beginning. As you continue to reveal yourself to us, and as we see you ever-more clearly, help us to respond as the shepherds, Simeon and Anna did – with hearts full of rejoicing and praise. By your grace, help us to share this incredible news with all people and bring many into your kingdom. Amen.

