



## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## SEEING SALVATION

LUKE 2:22-52

## OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

## APPLY // LUKE 2:1-21

1. Read Luke 2:1-21
2. At the birth of Jesus, the angels announce “I bring you good news of great joy.” Discuss some ways Jesus brings us good news of great joy.
3. Discuss the reactions of the shepherds and of Mary? How can we be like the shepherds and make known the news concerning Jesus? What would it look like for us to “treasure” and “ponder” the coming of Christ in our hearts? What prevents us from doing these things?

## STUDY // LUKE 2:22-52

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

**Overview:** Luke 1–2 presents Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s saving promises, whose birth prompts joyful response on the part of God’s people (from all peoples!).

1. Read Luke 2:22-40
  - a. Jesus’ presentation in the temple (vv. 21–40).
2. Verses 1-21 of this chapter describe the birth and circumcision of Jesus. Now it is time for his “presentation.” How is this ceremony described in verses 22-24? According to verse 24, what is the economic status of Mary and Joseph? Why is this status significant?
  - a. Leviticus 12:6-8 in the Old Testament describes the origin of this purification ceremony
3. How is Simeon described in verse 25? What is he waiting for? What is the “consolation of Israel”? How does this point to God’s faithfulness?
4. Look at Simeon’s “song” in verses 29-32.
  - a. What does it mean that his eyes have seen God’s “salvation”?

- b. If this “light of revelation” that Jesus will bring is for the Gentiles, and also for the glory of Israel, what is Simeon saying about the revelation of Jesus?
- 5. Look at Simeon’s further prophecy in verses 34-35.
  - a. What does it mean that “this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel”?
  - b. Why do you think there will be opposition to someone bringing the revelation of God?
  - c. What do you think he meant when he said to Mary that “a sword will pierce your own soul”?
- 6. How is Anna described in verses 36-37?
- 7. In verse 38, as soon as Anna saw Jesus, what are two things she does immediately in response?
- 8. Compare Simeon and Anna. What did they have in common? What was their response to encountering Jesus? How is this similar to the shepherds’ and Mary’s response in verses 17 - 20?
  - a. How is this similar to the shepherds’ response in verses 17 and 20?
  - b. *Note the theme of God’s faithfulness and the people’s joy in response to Jesus.*
- 9. Read verses 41-52.
  - a. Jesus’ presence as a boy in the temple (vv. 41-52).
- 10. What do these verses teach us about Mary & Joseph?
- 11. What do these verses teach us about Jesus?
- 12. What did Jesus mean when he said he “must be in my Father’s house”?
- 13. Notice that chapter 1-2 begins and ends at the Temple, and the Law is repeatedly referenced.
  - a. In the Temple, we learn that Jesus will be the Savior of Israel ([Luke 1:16](#); [Luke 2:25, 38](#)) and of “all peoples” ([Luke 2:31](#); see also [Luke 2:32](#)).
  - b. What’s the significance to Luke’s repeated references to the Temple and the Law?
- 14. Do you notice any other threads/themes in these opening chapters?

- General Bible study questions:
  - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
  - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** How is your joy in the Savior, who is Christ the Lord?