



Engage Page - Meeting the Messiah: Taking Hold of Hope

One of the hardest things we ever learn as Christ followers is waiting on God. Yet it is one of the Lord's favorite tools to purify our desires and to mature in our faith. Today we will look at a rarely talked about part of the Christmas story, but one that has so much to draw from to help us in our times of waiting.

For reflection and discussion:

Have you noticed that what is happening on the outside of us is often what makes waiting hard, but it what is happening *on the inside* of us that makes it really hard. If you have ever felt like you were waiting on God (or perhaps you're there now), what was going on and what made the waiting so hard?

1. Read aloud Luke 2:25-32 (p.1155, [Christian Basics Bible](#)). What circumstances would have made waiting hard for Simeon to wait? What example did he set for us in how we should respond in times if waiting?

2. Note the description of Simeon in v.25. In the original language, the word “devout” means to *securely take hold*. According to 2 Peter 1:3-4 (p.1427), what can we “securely take hold” of in times of temptation and struggle to help us access the power God has for us? This underscores the importance of learning the Scriptures.

3. One of the signs of Christian maturity is to long for the return of Christ (*Christ* means, Messiah). Why might we not be too excited about the idea of Christ coming *soon*? Read aloud 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (p.1387). How can this longing help us to persevere? How can cultivating this longing in our faith help guide us even now?

4. How did Simeon’s longing for the Messiah’s arrival position him for the leading of the Holy Spirit? Based on what you’ve read and discussed today, what does that waiting and longing do in our hearts?

5. In Simeon's life, notice the beautiful shifts that take place:
 - From securely taking hold of God's promise of a Savior to holding the Savior himself
 - From God being "up there" to God being in "right here" in his arms
 - From Messiah being a rescuer of Israel to being the hope for all mankind
6. What do you need to take hold of in this season you're in right now?

Memory Verse:

"He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah..." Luke 2:25