

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 165: There is always hope!



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Luke 2:27-35

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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' (v.27-32)

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Luke 2:33-38; Isaiah 7:13-16; Isaiah 9:6-7

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, there are several powerful messages for us all. Firstly, a reminder that there is always hope. Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38) waited for the Messiah for many years, but still did not give up. Clearly, they were elderly, and things did not look great for them. Yet they still believed that God would make good His promises (Isaiah 7:13-16 & Isaiah 9:6-7).

Secondly, God loves everyone, including the less-fortunate ones. Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus as the Messiah, although He was born into a humble family. They knew that He had come to save all people, regardless of their social status or background.

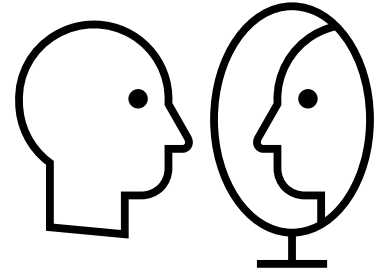
Thirdly, the passage tells us that God has a plan for each of our lives. Simeon and Anna knew that God had called them to see the Messiah before they died. They followed God faithfully and were rewarded for their faithfulness.

In the same way, God has a plan for each of our lives: He may be calling us to help others, to learn new skills, or to simply grow in our faith. Whatever God's calling for us may be, we can be sure that He has a purpose for our lives. For instance, in 2022, a group at HMP Pentonville launched a programme called *Read and Write First*. It is run entirely by people in prison. This is a reminder that everyone can make a positive contribution to society, whatever their circumstances.

### Reflections:

- Read the passage Luke 2:25-38 and reflect on your personal situation: no matter how difficult your situation may seem, there is always hope.
- You can be sure that God has a purpose for your life. Ask Him to help you understand what it is.
- How could you make a positive contribution to the people around you?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

