

CHRISTMAS 2025

All is Calm, All is Bright

Life Group Connection Guide

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and aid in your discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: jon@neighborhoodchurch.com



Dec. 21 — *The Light of Jesus Touches Life's Longings (Luke 2:25-35)*

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *If you had an unexpected free day tomorrow, what would you long to do? What kind of rest do you long for most right now: physical, emotional, mental, financial, spiritual? Has a longing ever led you to unexpected growth or change? How so?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Christmas Eve Services** Thursday, December 25 • Cypress Campus @ 4PM & 6PM • Los Alamitos Campus @ 4PM • Invite your coworkers, neighbors, family & friends • All kids will be in the services
- **Opening Prayers:**
 - **Hold yourself before the Lord // Psalm 139:23**
 - *What emotions are you feeling as you come to Life Group?*
 - Hold all of yourself out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & care for you in prayer right now • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Hold what you are holding before the Lord // Psalm 90:17**
 - *What are you dealing with, working on, preparing for?*
 - Hold it out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & establish the work of your hands • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Return • Recommit • Repent • Reattach to the LORD who is with you // Psalm 139:24**
 - *Draw near to God as He draws near to you*
 - *"...I acquiesce to You Abba Father, to work and pray and seek Your own through me"*
- **Scripture Passage: Luke 2:25-35**
 - Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
 - As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
 - Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.

- **Discussion/Personal Reflection**

- What challenged you, or stood out to you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?
- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?
- Read Hebrews 11:13. Simeon is described as "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25). How do you think his longing is shaped by trust rather than impatience? What does this reveal about how God fulfills our deep, righteous desires? When are you most tempted to rush God instead of trusting Him? How might embracing Jesus reshape/satisfy that longing?
- Read Psalm 37:4-5. After seeing Jesus, Simeon says, "Now... you may dismiss your servant in peace" (Luke 2:29). Why do you think Simeon is at peace even though Israel's full redemption has not yet happened? How might peace come not from having everything resolved, but from truly seeing and embracing Jesus?
- Read John 3:19-21. Simeon speaks blessing but also foretells division, opposition, and a pierced soul (Luke 2:34-35). Why must the light of Jesus sometimes unsettle us before it satisfies us? What longing in your life might Jesus be refining—not rejecting—through His light? Come to the Lord Jesus with any and all longings you may be experiencing right now during the Christmas season, inviting Him to come close to you...

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for • Hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives • Allow Him to care for them through your prayer right now.
 - *"Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?"*