

5. If you were mentoring a younger believer, how might you encourage them to cultivate a spirit of expectancy and readiness for encountering God in their life?

6. What specific steps can you take to become more attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life? Include some ideas from the passages below in your answer.

Galatians 5: <sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ...<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8: <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

1 Corinthians 2: <sup>10</sup> ...The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

<sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### Advent

"The True and Better David"

Luke 2:25-35

Matthew 1:1,18,20; 2:2,6; Luke 1:27,33; 2:4,11

Jesus is the true and better \_\_\_\_\_.

The coming of King Jesus is a message of \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone who has experienced, is experiencing, and will experience disappointment, disillusionment, and despair.

### How Does the Arrival of King Jesus Offer Us Hope?

1. King Jesus rescues and \_\_\_\_\_ us. (Luke 2:25)

(NLT) Luke 2: <sup>25</sup> ...[Simeon] was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.

We not only need to be forgiven, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_.

We still struggle with sin, but we're not its slaves anymore. We \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ. We are his. He bought us with his life.

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



2. King Jesus offers us personal \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 2:29)

(NLT) Philippians 4: <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

How do we experience greater peace? Through learning to live a different kind of life.

- A \_\_\_\_\_ life ("Pray about everything").
- A thankful life ("Thank him for all he has done").
- An "in Christ" life ("As you live in Christ Jesus").

3. King Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us. (Luke 2:25-27)

Matthew 2: <sup>6</sup> "And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel."

John 14: <sup>16</sup> "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 1: <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God \_\_\_\_\_ us into an "in the Spirit" life.

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. As you observe the encounter between Simeon and the baby Jesus, what emotions and thoughts might Simeon be experiencing?
3. Why do we need redemption in addition to forgiveness?
4. Think of the kinds of disappointments an older man like Simeon would have experienced, especially living in Jerusalem in the time of Herod the Great. As he's coming to the end of his life and therefore will not see Jesus take his throne, why does seeing the Messiah bring him such personal peace and fulfillment?