

12/9/2018 – Getting Ready for Christmas: Picking the Right Gift

SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is a different career or volunteer position you would enjoy?
2. What is an accomplishment that gives you pleasure?
3. What was impactful to you from this weekend's message?

INTO THE BIBLE

Pastor Jim shared that the only gift we can bring God is a life of worship and surrender. Let's look at couple of passages that contrast our response to God.

1. Read Luke 2:25-35.
 - A) In verse 25, what characteristics do we see in the life of Simeon?
 - B) In verse 26, what did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon?
 - C) In verse 27, how did the Lord show himself faithful to Simeon?
 - D) Simeon had most likely been waiting a long time to see the fulfillment of God's promise. What do you see here (verses 28-32) as Simeon's response to God being faithful?
 - E) So as Simeon worshipped God, we see a natural response to others come from his life. What do you see he did next in verses 34-35?

2. Read Luke 2:36-38. Anna, the prophetess, had probably been a widow for a very long time.
 - A) According to verse 37, what was God's call on her life?

 - B) In verse 38, what was her response to what Simeon had told Mary and Joseph?

 - C) There must have been thousands of dedicated followers of the Jewish faith at the time. What can you find in common with both Simeon and Anna that might have led God to share with the arrival of the Messiah?

3. Acts 5 is the story of a couple with a different mindset. Everyone was sharing with others as they had need. Read Acts 5:1-11.
 - A) In verses 1-2, what plan do Ananias and Sapphira conceive?

 - B) In verse 3, who was the author of this plan?

 - C) Read verse 4, was it a requirement for Ananias to give all money from the sale of the land to the church?

 - D) What sin had Ananias committed?

 - E) Ananias died as a result of his disobedience to God. Three hours later, his wife comes back. What did Peter give her an opportunity to do (verse 8)?

 - F) Sapphira lied and she died. Peter asked Ananias in verse 4, "Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart." What do you think would have been Ananias' answer at that moment?

 - G) Look at verse 11. What does it mean that "great fear came over the whole church"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Are you willing to accept God's promises and wait on them (like Simeon)?

