

## Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals

### **"Unexpected"**

**Luke 2:21-52**

**October 11-12, 2014**

#### **For Starters**

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. What expectations do you have when you go to church? What expectations do you have in your relationship with God? How do you cope when your expectations are unmet?

#### **Digging In**

1. Jesus is seen twice at the temple in this passage. What does this tell us about his family? (vv 21-24, 41-42).
2. What is the significance of Jesus' humble beginnings – born in poverty? Look up 2 Cor 8:9 and Phil 2:5-8.
3. Who is Simeon and why is he in the temple? How is the Holy Spirit involved in verses 25-27? Has the Holy Spirit directed your words, actions, or life? What was it like?
4. Simeon tells us who Jesus is (vv 25-32) and what he will do (vv 34-35). What are we told about Jesus and why does Jesus cause such opposite reactions?
5. We meet Anna in verses 36-38. What do you notice about her? Why is she in the story and what is her reaction to Jesus?
6. In what ways did Jesus grow? See Luke 2:40 & 52.
7. In what ways does the story in verses 41-51 illustrate Jesus' growth?
8. When Jesus answers his parent's question, he makes a not so subtle claim. It's the first time in Luke's gospel where Jesus shares his true identity. Who does he claim to be and how does that fit with question 5?

#### **Bringing It Home**

1. Simeon and Anna waited a long time for God's promise to be fulfilled. How does their faithfulness encourage you as you wait on God?
2. Luke is teaching us that our take on Jesus (for or against him) reveals our heart attitudes – mainly pride or humility. Where are you with Jesus – thanking God for him or opposing him? Which direction (rising/falling) do you want to head and what will it take?
3. Jesus grew in all areas of his life. Where do you want to grow? What do you see happening as a result of that growth?

#### **Digging Deeper**

Compare Simeon's song in verses 29-32 with Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55), and Zechariah's song (Luke 1:67-79). How are they connected? Identify and reflect on the different themes. How did this strengthen Theophilus' faith?

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at [myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org](mailto:myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org).