

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for December 26, 2021:
Christmas Gifts: The Day After Christmas



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with
CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. What was one unexpected gift or blessing this Christmas?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. **Luke 2:25-35***

1. When have you, like Simeon, waited a long time for God to come through?
2. How did Simeon happen to be in the temple on the day Jesus was dedicated? When have you experienced promptings of the Spirit? What do you think helps a person to be tuned in to these sorts of promptings? What does that tell you about Simeon?
3. Why do Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple for dedication? What do you learn from Luke 22:22-24 and Leviticus 12:7-8?
4. What does Mary and Joseph's dedication offering tell you about them?
5. According to Simeon, what will Jesus be to the Jewish people? To Gentile people? How does that speak to your calling as a follower of Jesus?
6. From what you know of Mary, how do you think she responds to Simeon's words?
7. What from this Christmas do you carry in your heart into 2022?

- **SERVE** *others*

Instead of returning a Christmas gift to the store, might you pass it on to someone who needs it?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short blessing.**