

# FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of December 18th, 2005

Simeon's Song

"Let us pray that we too might stand in the temple, hold the Son of God, and embrace him, and that we might be worthy of release and going on to better things." – Origen (second century theologian)

## **For Small-Group Leaders**

Dear Leaders,

This is the last edition of the Small Group materials for the Scrolls until after the New Year. I hope you have a great holiday season and that the Lord pours out his grace in your life, drawing you still nearer to him.

One last thing. By now you should have received a home group questionnaire in the mail from me. Please fill it out and mail back when you are able. Thanks so much. Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Scott

### **Discussion Starters:**

- Do you remember as a kid waiting for Christmas to come? It could seem like an eternity. What is your most memorable Christmas present you had to wait for?
- As an adult, think of something you had to wait a long time for. What was your waiting experience like?

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Luke 2:21-35. What do you think Simeon's waiting experience was like?
2. Read Simeon's response in Luke 2:29-35 (focus on 29-32). Who does Simeon say Christ has come for? Why might it have been surprising that Israel's Messiah also had a redemptive purpose beyond Israel?
3. Can you think of other non-Jewish characters in the Christmas story? What do these observations suggest about the scope of God's plan in Christ?
4. What three things does Simeon say Jesus will do or be, in verses 29-31? Choose one of these and consider how it was actually fulfilled in the life of Christ.
5. What do you think Simeon meant when he said, "This child will cause the rising and falling of many?"
6. Read Simeon's prophecy in Luke 2:29-35. One theologian said of Christmas, "*The cross casts a long shadow over the crib.*" Where do we see that theme emerge in this passage?
7. Most Hebrews at this time expected the Messiah to be a popular conquering war hero who will free Palestine from Roman occupation. Does Simeon seem to have similar expectations? Does he expect the Messiah to be well received? Do you find the Messiah to be well received among the people you know today?

**Living it This Week** – How could you go about making this Christmas season more Christ centered? Is there something you would like to do differently this year as a way of celebrating his coming? Share with the group and pray for each other.