

**FBC Small-Group Materials**  
**Week of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006**  
**Luke 2:25-32; The Consolation of Israel**

**For Small-Group Leaders**

*Dear Leaders,*

*We are waiting. Christ is coming again and we are waiting for his second advent (the word advent means "coming"). As we wait, we should ask, "what was it like to live at the time of Christ, waiting for his first coming?" For the righteous remnant it meant everything. Simeon was a part of that waiting remnant. He longed for the coming of Messiah. We have a lot to learn from Simeon. Christ mattered to him. When he finally met him, Simeon was like a little kid in a candy store. This week we read about his amazing encounter with the Christ child. May we learn together from his encounter.*

*Blessings,*

**Scott**

These small-group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at [www.fbcdavis.org](http://www.fbcdavis.org).

**Discussion Starters:**

- **Waiting** – For children in our culture, Christmas is a time of excited anticipation. For those of you who remember that excitement, what was it about Christmas in your family that brought such anticipation?

**Discussion Questions:**

Introduction: Please read Luke 2:25-32.

1. What was Simeon waiting for?
2. The Holy Spirit's role is undeniable in this story. How would you describe his role?
3. Put yourself in Simeon's shoes. What thoughts and feelings are going through you as you take the Christ child, Jesus into your arms?
4. Read his song again. Why do you suppose that Simeon erupted in song, as opposed to some other form of expression?
5. What kind of song is this? How would you describe the song to someone else?
6. What do we learn about Christ from Simeon's song of praise?
7. Some of the passages that Simeon would have clung to as he waited are listed below. As you read them, discuss what each passage would have told Simeon about the coming Messiah: Isaiah 40:1-11; Isaiah 61:1-2; Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 2:1-7.

**Getting Personal:**

- Of all the Old Testament references to Messiah, which one(s) are most meaningful to you and why?
- Now think about the way you or your family celebrates Christmas. What aspects of your celebration help you to focus on Christ?

**Putting it into Practice:**

- Is there something you would like to do differently this year to help you or your family focus better on Christ during this season?
- Close in prayer giving group members a chance to thank God for the coming of Christ. Pray for those for whom this season is a difficult time of year.