

Needing Encouragement

Proverbs 18:10

- 18 – The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.
- Standing with the Lord keeps you safe and gives you the encouragement needed at any given situation

Proverbs 3:5-6

- 5 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
- 6 – In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths

- Give God all of your trust in him
- Give God all of your heart
- Don't use your own intuition about a topic, without checking with God to make sure it's what he wants.
- Make sure to give him thanks in everything you do, and he will guide you on the path to righteousness

Isaiah 41:10

- 10 – fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strength you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Don't be afraid of what life has/is/will put in front of you because God is with you all the time
- He will give you the strength, wisdom, help, courage needed to overcome daily obstacles.

John 16:33

- 33 – I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
- Keep an eye on what God says to you, and know that whatever he says will give you peace
- In a world of chaos, he is the peace that you’ll need. He has won the war.

John 14:27

- 27 – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- God is going to give you his peace.
- The peace you may find in the world, doesn't compare to what God's peace can do.
 - His peace won't let your hearts be troubled or be afraid

1 Peter 5:7

- 7 – Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
- How many of us suffer from anxiety?
- If you give all your anxious thoughts to God, you need not worry anymore.
- God cares about you and will gladly bear the burden for you.

Isaiah 26:3

- 3 – God, you give true peace to people who depend on you, to those who trust in you.
- God gives the most righteous piece to the people that depend on him, or those who value in trust most highly

Jesus' Childhood

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus Receives a Blessing

Opening Question

- What is positive thing that an adult has told you about you think about from time to time?

Pre-Video Notes

- The following clip is from the BBC TV show, “Sherlock.”
- In the clip, Sherlock Holmes notices little things about a potential client that then helps Sherlock “see” what the man did in the day before he met Sherlock.
- Because they have British accents and talk pretty quickly, subtitles have been added to help with understanding what they are saying
- The character of Sherlock in this series is not necessarily a likeable one. When he’s bored, he’s often rude. He has been bored up to this point in the episode, which is why he’s a little bit rude in this clip. He’s also recently stopped smoking, so that’s making him irritable as well.
- The third character is, of course, Dr. Watson.
- Let’s see what happens.

VIDEO TIME!!!

- <http://rfour.org/pagems550.html>

Pre-Scripture

- In today's scripture story, there is no mystery to unravel or clues to notice in the way that Sherlock does it in the video clip.
- However, what the clip shows us is how in lots of little ways, we reveal our thoughts and feelings even when we don't mean to or are trying to, especially when something happens that creates feelings of unease or stress in us.
- But, for those details to actually reveal something about us, they have to be noticed by a keen observer
- In today's scripture story, Jesus is still a very young baby. And his parents go to the Temple in Jerusalem.
- While they are there, some people who seem to be keen observers have something to say about who Jesus will be, including this idea that who Jesus will be will reveal the inner thoughts of others

Luke 2:22-40

- 22 – When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
- 23 – (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as hold to the Lord”)
- 24 – and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”
- 25 – Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
- 26 – It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah
- 27 – Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Luke 2:22-40

- 28 – Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
- 29 – “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- 30 – for my eyes have seen your salvation
- 31 – which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples
- 32 – a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”
- 33 – And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.
- 34 – Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed
- 35 – so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Luke 2:22-40

- 36 – There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, having lived with her husband seven years after he marriage,
- 37 – then as a widow to the age of 84. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
- 38 – At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
- 39 – When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
- 40 – The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Talky Time

- At first this may not seem like much of a story: Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple and some crazy old people talk to them for awhile
- But, one reason this story is important is because it speaks to how the faith community noticed something about Mary and Joseph and then shared what they noticed.
- Think back to our opening question and your answer about positive things adults have said to you about you that you still think about.
 - And now, remember that Mary is somewhere between the ages of 13 and 15 in this story
 - Joseph was probably a little bit older, but for both of them, to have not just one, but two people who didn't know them, come up to them in the big city, in the Temple, and talk to them about their child like this had to have stuck in their brains
 - It could've affect how they thought about parenting and raising Jesus. Or, at the very least, it would've helped them think, "We can do this. We can make it through this difficult time."

Talky Time

- Also, by sharing what they are noticing, Simeon and Anna are saying, “We hope you choose to notice what we are noticing.”
- What we see Simeon and Anna doing is supporting the younger generations of their faith community.
- By supporting the next generations in this way, they are helping raise the next generation to a higher level.

Wrap-Up

- Simeon and Anna were the base, raising up Mary and Joseph with their words so that Mary and Joseph would do the same with Jesus
- That's how a faith community should work.
- We do lots of teaching of the stories in these classes, but we don't very often share what our hopes, as a faith community, are for you.
- So I am going to having a Simeon and Anna moment here and tell you:
 - I hope you learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus
 - I hope you choose to be a disciple of Jesus
 - I hope that you then help others know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in even better ways than I did
 - At the very least, I hope that when you are an adult in a church that you teach middle-/high-school classes like this one.
- It is these hopes as well as my care and love for you for why we teach this class.