

Sunday, March 12, 2023



***“Setting Our Kids Up for Success”***  
***Luke 2:21-50***

What was the most significant influence in your life as a child? How has that transferred into your adult life?

---

This month we have turned the corner from the Old Testament to the New Testament. For a brief moment there was a new beginning for God’s people. They had returned to Jerusalem. God had fulfilled his promise, they had a fresh start, but very quickly it faded. For the next 400 years the voice of God would be silent to his people. They were left waiting and wanting. The New Testament opens with hope speaking again through God’s promised Messiah, Jesus coming into the world. Joseph and Mary do their part in setting Jesus up for his ministry to deliver hope.

“When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.” (2:22)

What can I learn as I wait for hope?

**I can continue to live in \_\_\_\_\_ of hope**

Read *Luke 2:25,26*.

Simeon spent his life actively expecting the hope that God promised. Do I actively live expecting God’s hope? What sidetracks me in my expectation?

---

**I can continue to wait \_\_\_\_\_ for hope**

Read *Luke 2:36-38*.

Anna has been a widow for 84 years. She has spent those years in service in the temple fasting and praying.

How patient am I in waiting for God to deliver hope to me? To my family?  
What does God need to do in my life to build my patience ability?

---

---

**I can continue in the \_\_\_\_\_ of hope.**

Read *Luke 2:21-24, 39, 40*.

Joseph and Mary raised Jesus in full compliance to the law and customs of the times.

What spiritual disciplines are easy for me to continue? Which are the hardest to start or maintain? Which disciplines do we practice regularly as a family?

---

---

**This week**

**“I don’t get it?”**

The title “Setting Our Kids Up for Success” may seem out of place with the content. It is an encouragement for each of us to do what is right in raising them for success with God. However, we know things don’t always turn out that way. This is an encouragement to keep waiting expectantly, patiently and to keep living your faith focused on the hope that Jesus offers in bringing them to center of their faith and life with God once again.

Can you find someone to partner with to pray for the spiritual lives and future of your kids? Can you be supported of a family struggling? Is there a young person to whom you can pour your faith?

---

*Next Week: “Shout it Out Loud” “Baptisms”*