



# LUKE

## 2 : 22-40

*“The Baptist Church of Franklin exists to make **more** and **better** followers of Jesus Christ.”* — BCF Membership Binder

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* —Galatians 5:22-23a

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**This passage tells of Joseph and Mary going to the temple to consecrate the baby Jesus to the Lord.**

- Why were Joseph and Mary doing this? Use your study aids to help you. Also, Read Exodus 11:4-7 and Exodus 13:1-15 as background.
- What similar sorts of rituals do some people do with newborns today? How are these ritual like—or *unlike*—what Joseph and Mary were doing.

**In the Exodus, God brought judgment on Egypt but saved Israel.**

- Why did God do this? Was Israel morally superior to Egypt? Did God only care for Israel but not other nations?
- Read Isaiah 42:6 and 52:10. How do these passages highlight Israel’s role in God’s plan of salvation? How are Christians called to a similar role?

**Simeon says to Mary, “*This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.*”**

- What did Simeon “see” in Jesus’ future?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How is it that the message of Jesus causes “the thoughts of many hearts [to] be revealed” even today?

**The gospel (in particular the idea that our salvation required the sacrifice of God’s only Son) is shocking in two ways: first, we’re more *sinful* than we originally thought; and second, we’re more *loved* than we could imagine.**

- How is it necessary that these two things go hand-in-hand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What happens when Christians overemphasize the first part of the gospel at the expense of the second? What about vice versa?