

International Bible Lesson

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Luke 1:26-31, 2:22, 25-35

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

1. If you were God the Father, what type of girl or woman would you want to choose to be the mother of Your only begotten Son?

I would want to choose a young woman I had begun to prepare before she was born. One with parents who would train her in the way she should live as a devout believer in God and follower of the Ten Commandments in a believing and loving family. One who would mature in every way, and one who showed mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional maturity and stamina even before the angel visited her. One who would be able to trust in God and find her strength and faith in God the Father through dark days. One who would love her Son and her family and raise her Son to grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and others. One who served others outside of her home and showed hospitality to others.

2. What did the angel say to Mary so she would not be afraid?

He reassured her that she had found favor with God, which would affirm for her at least that she had been living the right way and God did not have any reason to judge or punish her for her behavior. He also affirmed that God would be with her.

3. What type of person was Simeon?

He was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

4. What did Simeon say he had seen?

God's Salvation. The name Jesus means: "God saves" or "God is salvation."

5. What did Simeon say would happen to people who met Jesus?

He would be a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. He was appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that would be opposed. The thoughts from many hearts would be revealed. Mary would suffer when Jesus was rejected and crucified.

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