**A Family to Belong To Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions (Luke 2:22-39)**

We see from the story of Jesus' birth that a few people played key roles in ushering the Savior into the world He came to save. These people, as they took on this privilege, received immaterial gifts – one of which was the privilege to belong to a family and for the parents to create a legacy.

***22 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 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”)***

Joseph and Mary’s decision to present Jesus to God shows their faith and dependence on God’s promises. In what ways have you shown your dependence on God for your and your family’s needs?

What are some challenges that a person may face as he/she seeks to trust God for his/her needs?

How can you become more intentional and consistent in expressing your full dependence on God’s provisions?

***“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”***

Simeon revealed that being Jesus’ parents would cause heartaches and judgment. When you were growing up, do you remember causing your parents hurt or shame? How did your parents respond?

What are some of the lessons you have learned from those events and how have these shaped your view of your parents?

***40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.***

God’s decision to provide a family for Jesus shows us the benefit of receiving guidance as one grows up. What are some life-changing lessons you have received from your parents that you still keep and follow today?

Are there some negative messages you received while you were growing up? Feel free to share to the group.

How are you creating a legacy that others can benefit from?