



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

December 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



First Sunday of Christmas

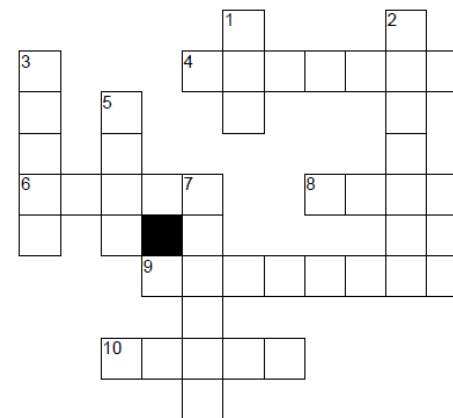
Hellooo friends! It's almost the beginning of a brand new year. Some people begin the new year by making something called a New Year's Resolution. A resolution is like a promise, one that you can make to yourself, like saying that you'll do better at keeping your room clean, or study harder, or read your Bible more....or....maybe even being nicer to your siblings?!

Most people don't do a very good job at keeping resolutions. No big deal, right? I mean, it's just a promise that we make to ourselves, right? NO!!! A promise is a promise!

God is always faithful in keeping God's promises. In our gospel lesson from Luke, we read the story about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had faithfully served God all of his life. Simeon was looking forward to meeting the Messiah. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Christ, the promised One. A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple to dedicate him to God. Simeon was in the Temple and as soon as Simeon saw the baby, he knew that Jesus was the Christ and that God had kept the promise that was made. Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant go in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people." Anna, a prophetess, was also in the Temple worshiping and praying. She came along just as Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she began praising God and telling everyone that this child was the Savior that God had promised. How happy they must have been to know that God fulfilled the promises God made to them many years ago!

Loving God, help us to follow your lead by keeping the promises that we make to ourselves and to others. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. A country whose ruler is a king or queen
6. To instruct someone on how to do something
8. Something bad; wicked
9. Holy, sacred, worthy of praise
10. A baked food made from flour

DOWN

1. To break God's laws
2. To remove the blame for doing wrong
3. The planet where we live
5. To speak to God with praise, confession, asking, or thanksgiving
7. The place where God is

KINGDOM	FORGIVE	EARTH	PRAY	BREAD
HALLOWED	EVIL	HEAVEN	SIN	TEACH

Activity: Gather your family and on an index card, have each person write down one thing you'd like to accomplish in the new year. Tuck the card away with your Christmas ornaments and next year, when you put up your tree, read your cards aloud. Who kept their promises?

Discussion Question Can you think of a time when someone broke their promise to you? How did that make you feel?

Family Table Prayer for December:

God of love you light the way as we journey towards Christ and Christmas Day. Thank you for your Son, presents, and fun, help us to be mindful of all that you have done. Amen.

December Memory Verse: Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.



Simeon and Anna Thank God

Luke 2

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