

**Sermon Overview CEFC
December 31, 2023**

Title: Nunc Dimittis

Passage: Luke 2:21-40

Introduction

Series Purpose: Even in our _____ moments, Christmas gives us a _____ to sing!

Question: Is there any such thing as the _____ gift?

Main Point: Christmas gives us the _____ gift, the _____ gift worth _____ about.

What Makes the Perfect Gift?

The _____ gift will _____ our deepest _____.

The _____ gift is very _____.

Conclusion

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Message Title: Nunc Dimittis

Passage: Luke 2:21-40.

Main Point: Christmas gives us the perfect gift, the only gift worth singing about.

1. Read Luke 2:21-40 as a group. What stands out to you?
2. If you could design the perfect Christmas gift for yourself, what would it be? What about it would make it perfect? What would ruin it?
3. According to Luke, our deepest need is our alienation from God and from others. Which type of alienation is your greatest need right now? Why?
4. Both Simeon and Anna had to wait decades for their perfect gift to arrive. It cost them a life-time of waiting. What is the hardest thing about waiting? How can God use waiting in our lives? What can we do to wait well?
5. The gift cost to Mary unimaginable pain. Can you think of a time when God used pain in your life for good?
6. **Bonus:** Compare the story of Jesus' dedication in the Temple to that of Samuel in 1 Samuel 1 – 2:21 and compare Mary's song in Luke 1:47-55 to Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-11. What can we learn from the similarities and differences?