

Adult Bible Studies

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Jesus: God's Loving Promise Luke 1:26-31; 2:22, 25-35

Weeks after her home was destroyed by the wildfire in Paradise, California, Andrea Gaylord found her Anatolian shepherd dog, Madison, guarding the “charred remains of his home.” Madison greeted Gaylord with his “tail wagging.” Anatolian shepherd dogs “have been bred for thousands of years to protect and guard livestock, their property and their humans. . . . Madison is a perfect example of a livestock guardian dog. He braved a natural disaster and went right back to where he belonged and stayed there until his owners and working buddy returned.” Madison and his working buddy, Miguel, who was rescued soon after the fire, “are currently staying on the property, with Gaylord’s family making regular trips to make sure they’re cared for.” These working dogs are still at work guarding their home.¹

Today’s lesson is about God making and keeping promises. Speaking of Simeon, the student book author writes, “He’d been watching for the coming of the Lord’s anointed; and now that he’d seen Jesus and understood him as the fulfillment of that promise, Simeon realized he didn’t need to man that watch-post any longer.”² The Holy Spirit promised Simeon that he would see the Lord’s promised Messiah and the Lord fulfilled that promise. Simeon trusted in the Lord’s faithfulness.

Instinctively, Madison made a promise to the Gaylord family, to guard and watch their home and family. Madison faithfully came through on that promise and is still on watch today, even though there is almost nothing left of the family’s home. Our faith relies on the Lord’s faithfulness to keep promises. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is proof of the Lord’s faithfulness to a promise.

1. What promise did God make to Simeon? How was that promise fulfilled?
2. How would you describe Simeon’s emotions in meeting Jesus? What can we learn from Simeon and his trust in God’s promises?
3. How is Jesus the Christ a fulfillment of the Lord’s promises in your own life? How can you describe Jesus as the fulfillment of a promise to someone else searching for a trustworthy God?

Reverend Katie Shockley is a licensed local pastor and serves as pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Copeville, Texas.

¹From “Loyal Dog Found Guarding Home Weeks After Wildfire Burned It to the Ground,” by Hilary Hanson, *The Huffington Post* (huffingtonpost.com/entry/dog-guarding-home-wildfire-california_us_5c0c5a96e4b035a7bf5bcc70).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 31.

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