

Simeon and Anna See Baby Jesus



Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



Scriptures

Lk 2:21-39

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants everyone to rejoice and praise Jesus Christ

Behavioral Objective(s)

To show our happiness and joy of knowing Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible reading and hymn singing

Memory Verse

"For my eyes have seen Your salvation."
(Lk 2:30)



Bible Knowledge

Circumcision and the Law

The word "circumcision" is derived from a Latin word and means literally "to cut around." The biblical reference is an operation whereby the foreskin, a covering of skin on the head of the penis, is removed by surgery. As directed by Scripture, Mary and Joseph had Jesus circumcised on the eighth day. They named Him "Jesus" as the angel had instructed. Today, most babies born in the western world undergo this simple operation in infancy for hygienic considerations.

Circumcision was first mentioned in Genesis 17. The divine covenant is a series of promises, first personal (Abram becomes a new man), then national (the predicted rise of the monarch nationhood), and lastly spiritual (the pledged relationship of God with Abraham and his descendants).

According to the law of Moses (Lev 12), a woman who had given birth to a male child was considered unclean for seven days. She had to remain isolated for thirty-three additional days. After forty days a sacrifice was to be offered. However, if the

family was poor, a pair of doves or young pigeons could be substituted. Thus, on the fortieth day after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple so that all the requirements of God's laws would be kept.

Simeon and Anna

Simeon was a man in Jerusalem who was righteous and devout. He was one who longed for the coming of the Messiah. He had received a direct revelation that he would not die before seeing the Messiah with his own eyes. When the presentation of Jesus was about to take place, Simeon was guided by the Spirit to the temple. On seeing Jesus, he uttered a hymn of praise and went on to speak to the astonished Mary on the role of Christ within Israel.

Anna was an aged widow, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (Lk 2:36-38). Like Simeon, who also belonged to the remnant which waited for the coming of the Messiah, she had prophetic sight. She was devout and served day and night in the temple. On hearing Simeon's words at the presentation of Jesus, she commended the baby as the long-awaited Messiah, and praised God for the fulfillment of His promise.



Understanding Your Students

Even as a baby, Jesus Christ was already recognized as having an important role in the kingdom of God. Both Simeon and Anna saw that He would be the Savior to all mankind, and not just the chosen people of Israel. Even though this job carried with it tremendous stress, Jesus Christ took this job head on from a young age by learning in the temple and prepared Himself daily to do the work of God.

Although our students are still young, they can learn from the example of Jesus. There are many things they can do to prepare themselves for the work of God even when they are just four or five years old. Many parents send their children off to piano class, for example, around this age. If you

know your students are taking such classes, encourage them often. Ask them why they think they are going to these classes. Is it so that they can make their parents happy or is it so they can glorify God one day when they can play hymns in the church? Another example is Chinese school. Many children start attending these classes around this age range. They can be encouraged that learning another language can help them spread the gospel to others who may not understand English.

Even at a young age, the students can learn that their lives can be purposeful for God's holy work. They can see their piano or Chinese classes as less of a chore and more of a way they can fulfill God's will. They can look forward to their weekly lessons with excitement because they will know that they are preparing themselves to work for God's kingdom.



Vocabulary

Dove

a type of bird that is all white

Pigeon

a type of bird that has a plump body and a small head

Bless

to bless means to ask God to give good things to another person. This is like when Simeon blessed Joseph and his family. He said nice things would

happen to them later on.

Fast

fast can mean the opposite of slow; another meaning is to not eat anything

Offering

a gift for God; we put money in the offering box at church because it is a gift that we give to God to remember the good things He has given to us. During Jesus' time, some people offered animals instead

Savior

a person who saves another; Jesus is our Savior



Before You Teach

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." (Lk 2:29-32)

These words were spoken by Simeon after he saw baby Jesus in the temple. How special that moment must have been for Simeon. He had waited many, many years for the coming of the Messiah and now he had seen Him with his own eyes. The promise he had been awaiting was finally fulfilled. But there is something interesting in his words; he

wasn't just happy for himself that he was able to see Jesus. He was excited for all the people in the world. As he spoke, he acknowledged that the Lord Jesus would be a Savior for all mankind, including the gentiles. This shows the great understanding Simeon had about God's plan of salvation. It was not just reserved for the chosen nation of Israel. Unlike many of the early believers, he was completely comfortable that God had intended to reach out to everyone. Simeon understood that God was not just a God for an exclusive people. And the fact that he was genuinely happy for everyone demonstrates the tremendous heart he has. It shows his open-mindedness and his willingness to share the gospel. This is not always an easy thing to do. Sometimes, within our own church, we find cliques or small groups. We tend to want to stay with only

the people we know very well or feel comfortable with. But Simeon's words here have taught us to step out of our comfort zone and spread the good news to everyone. We need to be excited about God's plan and spend time delivering this great joy



Bible Story

Mary and Joseph Prepare to Go to the Temple

Last week, we talked about angels who visited some shepherds to tell them some good news. Do you remember what this good news was? The angels told the shepherds about a very special baby. This special baby was Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem. Do you remember where the shepherds found baby Jesus? They found baby Jesus in a manger. Did you know that when the shepherds visited baby Jesus, He was not even eight days old? That is a very tiny and small baby.

During that time, when a baby was eight days old, the parents would name the baby. After forty days, they would also bring the baby to the temple.

When baby Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph named Him "Jesus." Why did Mary and Joseph choose the name "Jesus?" Do you remember how the angel came to visit Mary and told her that she would have a baby? The angel also told her the baby shall be called Jesus. The angel also visited Joseph and told him to name the baby Jesus. So Mary and Joseph listened to the angel and named the baby "Jesus."

About forty days after Jesus was born, it was time to take Jesus to the temple. Even though Jesus was still very small, Mary and Joseph were going to present Him to the Lord. That means they wanted to show God their baby and give thanks to God for such a wonderful family they had. But before they could bring Jesus to the temple, they needed to bring a special offering to the temple. This special offering could be a pair of doves or two young pigeons. Mary and Joseph were busy getting ready for the trip. They wanted to make sure they had everything they needed. Soon, they were ready to go.

Baby Jesus At The Temple

After traveling for a while, Mary and Joseph

to others around us. Instead of just being happy that we have been chosen and saved, we should also be concerned about the salvation of the people around us. Let us learn from the example of Simeon and spread the good news.

arrived at the temple. There was a very old man named Simeon who met them at the temple. How did Simeon know that Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were coming to the temple? God used the Holy Spirit to show him. Because Simeon was very righteous and loved God very much, God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw God's Son. This means that Simeon was a man who loved God and did everything according to God's way. God wanted Simeon to be able to see God's Son before he died so the Holy Spirit moved Simeon to go to the temple to meet baby Jesus.

Simeon is Glad to See Baby Jesus

When Simeon saw Jesus' family, Simeon hurried over to Mary and Joseph and took baby Jesus in his arms. He knew right away that this baby was God's Son. Then Simeon prayed and blessed God, "Dear God, you have kept your promise. Now I can die in peace. I have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all the people. I have seen your salvation that will bring light to the people." Do you know what Simeon was saying? He was thanking God for keeping His promise to let him see Jesus. He was also thankful that God had given the world His Son so that Jesus could save everyone.

Can you imagine what Mary and Joseph were thinking when Simeon took Jesus from them? Mary and Joseph were very surprised. They had never met this man before. But they could tell he really wanted to hold the baby. They also wondered how Simeon knew so much about Jesus and what He would do in this world. Do you know how Simeon knew so much about Jesus? God had shown it to Simeon.

Then Simeon blessed Jesus' family and told Mary, "This baby will grow up to be very important. He will be good for many of the people in Israel, but He will also make some of them fall." Mary and Joseph did not know what this meant since Jesus was such a small baby. How could He help people and also make people fall? Actually, Simeon was saying that some people would believe in Jesus as

the Savior after He grew up and some wouldn't believe in Him at all.

Anna Is Glad to See Baby Jesus Too

Just then a woman hurried over to see the baby. She was an elderly woman named Anna. She had lived with her husband for seven years after they got married, but then her husband died. She did not get married again. Now, she was eighty-four years old. Every day for all these years, she would stay in the temple and worship God. She never left the temple but worshiped day and night, fasting and praying. So she was very excited to see baby Jesus. Anna also knew that this baby was Jesus, the Savior of all people. When she saw Him, she thanked God for sending Jesus.

During this whole time, Mary and Joseph stood

there, not knowing what to say. They had never met this woman before. How did she know so much about Jesus? Anna also shared this wonderful news to those who were waiting for the Savior.

Then, Simeon handed baby Jesus back to Mary. He and Anna were both very happy because they had seen the Savior.

Even though Mary and Joseph did not understand everything that Simeon or Anna told them about baby Jesus, they still wanted to thank God for giving them Jesus. They had come to the temple to pray and give their offering. So after they had done everything that they needed to do, it was time to go home. But Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were not going back to the stable. In next week's lesson, we will find out where Jesus and His family will stay and where Jesus grows up.



Check For Understanding

1. **Where were Mary and Joseph taking baby Jesus?** (They were bringing Him to the temple to present Him to the Lord.)
2. **What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?** (He took the baby and held Him.)
3. **How did Simeon know that baby Jesus would be at the temple?** (The Holy Spirit told him to find Jesus there.)
4. **What did Simeon say after he saw Jesus?** (He said that he was happy and peaceful. He said many people will believe in Jesus as

the Savior and some will not.)

5. **Who else came over to see Jesus at the temple?** (Anna. She was an old believer. She fasted and prayed in the temple all the time.)
6. **What did Anna do or say after seeing Jesus?** (She gave thanks to God and told others about Jesus.)
7. **Both Simeon and Anna were very happy to see Jesus at the temple. They were happy to be able to finally see Him. Today, we cannot see Jesus as they did but we do know Him. How can we show we are happy, just like Simeon and Anna?** (Allow students to answer.)



Life Application Story

Happy To Be With God

Juan was having a great dream about race cars when all of a sudden, he heard his name being called.

"Juan, Juan. It is time to get up. Today is the Sabbath and we are going to church soon," said the voice.

This didn't seem like part of the dream. He

opened his eyes and realized that his mom was standing over him.

"Juan, it is getting late. You need to get up and eat your breakfast now," said Mrs. Lopez.

Juan rubbed his eyes.

"Okay," replied Juan as he shuffled out of bed and headed to the bathroom to wash up.

Ten minutes later, Juan came into the kitchen and sat down. He picked up his fork and began to eat the breakfast his mom had made for him.

"Mom, why do we have to go to church every Saturday?"

"Juan, you know the answer to that question," said Mrs. Lopez.

"Yes, I know it is because it's the Sabbath and God wants us to worship Him. But sometimes I wish I could sleep in like other kids do," said Juan as he made a big yawn.

"I know that it is nice to sleep in but you already had a good night's rest. You know Juan, going to church should not be something that we feel like we 'have to' do but it should be something that we're happy to do, just like how Mr. Chu is so happy to go to church every time," explained Mrs. Lopez.

"Oh, do you mean that man who can't drive and lives by himself?" asked Juan.

"Yes, that's him. By the way, we are going to pick him up today on our way to church. By picking him up, we are doing God's work. This is also a way to show God our love for Him."

"Mom, I like Mr. Chu. He is always smiling at church," commented Juan as he picked up his milk cup.

"I think he is smiling all the time because he is happy to see all the brothers and sisters at church and he is happy to be with God," explained Mrs. Lopez.

"He must really be happy because he is ALWAYS smiling," said Juan again.

"You know, he reminds me of the story of Simeon and Anna. They were in the temple when baby Jesus was brought there by his parents. They were very excited and happy to see Him too. They praised and thanked God for giving the people a Savior," said Mrs. Lopez.

"I guess that is a bit like Mr. Chu. He is so happy about going to church that he just smiles all the time," offered Juan.

"And we should learn to be more like Mr. Chu. We should feel like we can't wait to go to church



Activity 1

Simeon and Anna Are Happy to See Jesus

Look at the picture. Simeon and Anna are happy to see Jesus. How can you tell? Finish what each of them said about Jesus. Then color in the picture.

"I have seen Jesus with my _____ (eyes)."

"Thank _____ (God) for sending us Jesus."

every Saturday. It is just like spending time with our best friend. When you think about your best friend, Tommy, you can't wait to play with him, right?" asked Mrs. Lopez.

"Wow, I never really thought about God that way, being my friend," said Juan.

"Jesus is definitely our friend. We don't just go to church because we have to. We go because we are happy Jesus is a part of our lives. I hope you feel happier about going to church now," said Mrs. Lopez.

"Yes," Juan responded with a big smile.

"You know dear, with that big smile of yours, not only will everyone know that you are happy to go to church but Jesus will definitely be able to tell how glad you are to be in His house," praised Mrs. Lopez. "Do you know what else you can do to let the rest of the family know how happy you are to go to church?"

"I know," Juan answered as he jumped down from his seat. "I am going to make sure Ricky and Dad are up and ready to go to church too!"

Questions to Think About

1. **What did Juan wish he could do on Saturdays instead of going to church?** (He wanted to stay home and sleep in.)
2. **Why do we go to church on Saturdays?** (Allow students to answer; because it is the Sabbath; God made it a special day for us to rest so that we can go to church to worship/praise Him.)
3. **What did Juan say about Mr. Chu?** (He said that Mr. Chu was always smiling.)
4. **Why did Mrs. Lopez think Mr. Chu was always smiling at church?** (She thought he was happy to be with God, like Simeon and Anna.)
5. **How can we show we are happy to be with Jesus, at church and at home?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 2

We Are Happy To Be With Jesus

Simeon and Anna were happy to see Jesus. They smiled a lot and praised God to show they were happy. Look at the pictures. What can we do show that we are happy to be with Jesus?

1. We can _____ (sing) hymns to God.

2. We can _____ (pray) to God.
3. We can _____ (listen) in class.
4. We can _____ (read) the Bible.



Activity 3

Thank You Hymn

This is a wonderful lesson to sing hymns of thanks and praise to God. One particularly good one is Hymn 393 in the Hymns of Praise hymn book. When the children are singing, take time out to talk about the words and what people thank God for in their lives.

*Some thank the Lord for friends and home,
for mercies sure and sweet;
But I would praise Him for His grace,
in prayer I would repeat.
Refrain*

*Some thank Him for the flowers that grow,
some for the stars that shine;
My heart is filled with joy and praise,
because I know He's mine.
Refrain*

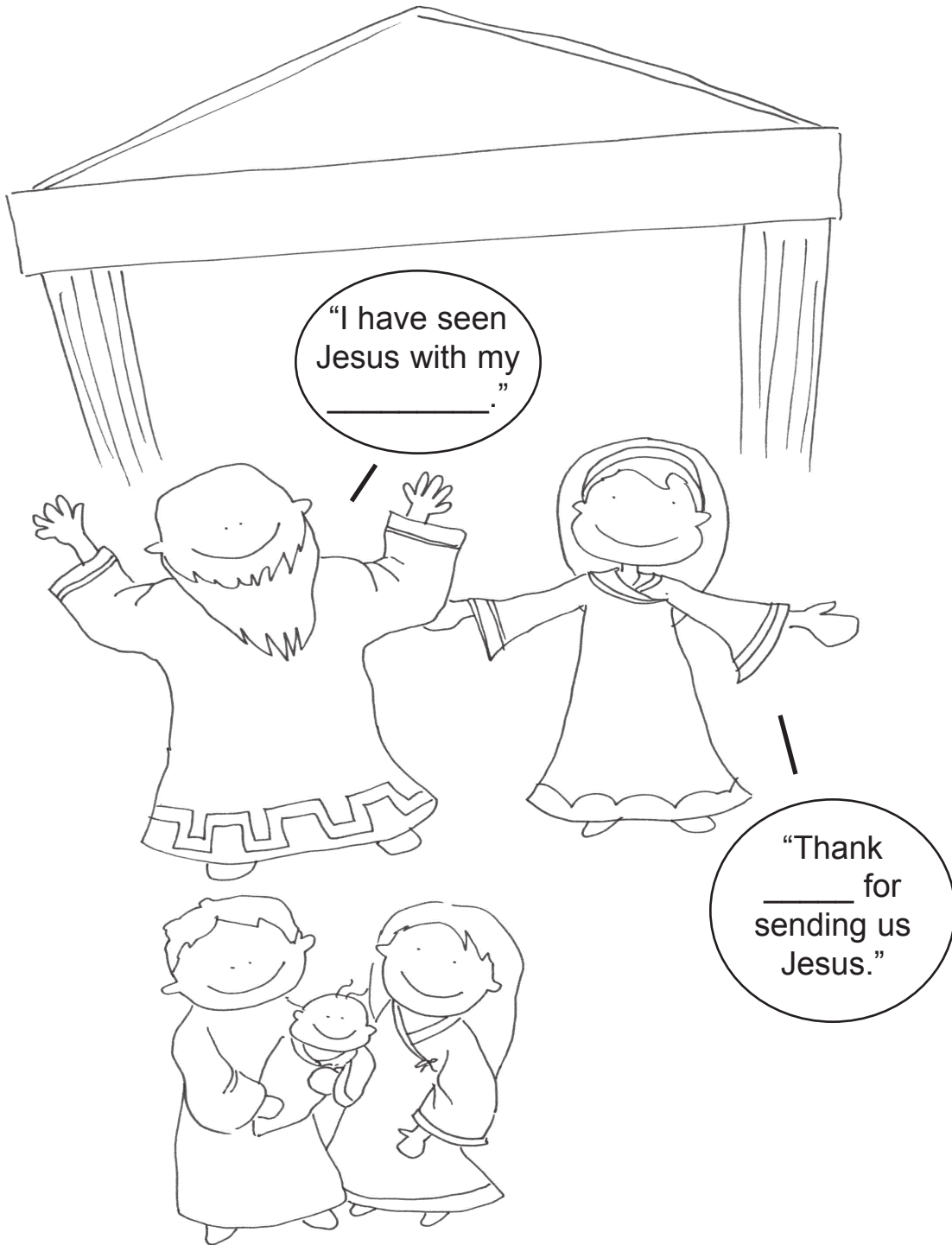
*I trust in Him from day to day,
I prove His saving grace;
I'll sing this song of praise to Him,
until I see His face.
Refrain*

*Refrain:
Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul;
Thank you Lord, for making me whole;
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free.*

Activity 3:1

Simeon and Anna Are Happy To See Jesus

Look at the picture. Simeon and Anna are happy to see Jesus. How can you tell? Finish what each of them said about Jesus. Then color in the picture.



Activity 3:2

We Are Happy To Be With Jesus

Simeon and Anna were happy to see Jesus. They smiled and praised God to show they were happy. Look at the pictures below. What can we do to show we are happy to be with Jesus?



1. We can _____ hymns to God.



2. We can _____ to God.



3. We can _____ in class.



4. We can _____ the Bible.