

*Get Ready!***Simeon And Anna**By: Myra Montgomery
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Luke 2:21-40

Key Quest Verse

“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.” Psalm 32:11a

Bible Background

Luke was a doctor and very knowledgeable. He is the only gospel writer who wrote and related things to world history. He also made it clear by speaking to the Greeks as well as the Jews that Christ was sent as redemption for all. The Greek audience was interested in the history and familiar with Palestine under the rule of Caesar Augustus. The Roman census that took place at Jesus' birth was taken to collect taxes to help pay for the Roman army. The census put Mary and Joseph at the right place for the prophecy to be fulfilled as God predicted. The greatest event in history happened during the time of Luke and he writes in great detail about the event. The Savior was born. Several ceremonies took place after a birth in the Jewish family. On the eighth day every boy was circumcised and named. The firstborn son was presented to God about one month after the birth and the child had to be redeemed. (In the ceremony the child had to be bought back from God with an offering, and that showed that the parents knew that the child belonged to God.) Also a mother was ceremonially unclean and could not enter the temple for 40 days after the birth of a son and 80 days after the birth of a daughter. At the end of the unclean days the parents were to go to the temple and bring a lamb for a burnt offering and a dove or pigeon for a sin offering. If a lamb was too expensive they could bring a second dove or pigeon to be sacrificed. Even though Jesus was the Son of God his parents still carried out the same traditions. In the Jewish culture the older people were greatly respected and when they spoke everyone listened as they shared their wisdom. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they felt blessed because they had waited for the promise God had given them of seeing the Messiah. Anna was called a prophetess that indicates that she was very close to God. Mary and Joseph and those around valued the words of Simeon and Anna.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: Simeon and Anna anticipated seeing their Savior for the first time and waited faithfully.

Feel: Excited to meet Jesus upon His return.

Do: Learn more about their Savior and the joy He brings to our lives.

Leader's Devotion

I can't help but compare the joy of Simeon and Anna on the day they first saw their Savior's face to the joy I will feel when I see Christ return. I recently visited the Oregon coast and was surprised at my various reactions to the majestic landscape. My first glimpse of the ocean and I felt excitement, great anticipation to get out of the car and run toward the beach. I took picture after picture. The next stop I repeated over in my head, "I am so lucky, I am so lucky, I am so lucky to be here right now." I felt a great sense of happiness. A few hours later, looking out the passenger window of our rented car, I looked out and my eyes dropped—over a thousand feet—the view was breathtaking, quite literally. I said moments later as we pulled over to stop at a lookout, "I just stopped breathing!" The next day as we continued down the Oregon coast and on into the California redwoods, I just laughed. All day long I laughed, it was simply too incredible, the views I had, the places I was walking, I had to laugh. And all these emotions and reactions came just from the creation of our Maker's hands. I've yet to meet Him or my Savior and I wonder...what will it be like? What must that day have been like for Simeon and Anna? To have felt that moment when they met their Savior, that is a moment I'm not only waiting for, I'm *living* for.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Stethoscope

If you were really sick and your parents didn't know what to do would they take you to a clown? Why wouldn't they take you to see a clown to make you happy so you could get well? Who would they take you to? Why would they take you to a doctor? So a doctor is a smart person who has studied things and knows things? Would a doctor know how to use one of these? (Show stethoscope) What is this? (Name of child) would you come up and help me for a minute? Can I listen to your heart? If I were a doctor I would know if your heart sounded right or not, you see a doctor has done research and studied and knows how to use this. I think it's really interesting that a doctor back in Bible times wanted to learn more about what God wanted and he studied and checked things out and God told him to write some information down so that we would know what happened a long time ago. (Have Bible opened to Luke and show it to the children) So our lesson today is from God and he had a very smart doctor write down all the information so we would know exactly what happened. Let's read more to see what Luke has to tell us.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Option B

Materials: Student's dolls

(Ask students one week in advance to bring in their favorite doll. On Saturday call and remind them that you would like for them to bring a doll to Sunday School.)

Let students introduce their doll and explain what makes it so special. **Which doll here do you think is the most important or special? That's not any easy question to answer is it? All parents think their baby is the cutest, most special baby in the world. In our story today we're going to learn about a man and lady that waited and waited and waited to see a special baby. This baby was really the most special baby of all. This man and this lady were very old but when they spoke everyone listened and knew that this was a very special baby. At the end of the story I want you to tell me why they thought this baby was the best baby in the whole world.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

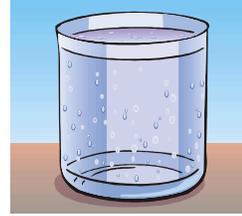
Get Set!**Bible Story**

Materials: Bibles for each student to follow along when you read the scripture

Read the following summary/commentary on Simeon and Anna. When it is time to read the scripture, either have students follow along in their own Bibles or have volunteers read out loud.

Anna married young, like most Hebrew girls did at the time. She lived with her husband seven years, then he died. As a widow, probably in her early twenties, it's possible that she could have been married again, but God didn't lead her down that path. He had another path for her to follow. Anna was raised at a time when all Israel lived in hope and expectation of the promised Messiah. The prophets had predicted that Messiah would come suddenly to his temple. Anna hoped he would come in her lifetime. She wanted to be where she knew he would be. So she devoted her life utterly to the service of God, looking forward to the coming of Messiah. She entered the temple and never left. She worshiped God day and night, fasting and praying. Not very glamorous, perhaps. But she was committed to loving God, and devoting her life to him was not a problem. She learned to hear his voice and became one he could trust to speak his word to others—a prophetess. Day after day, night after night, for more than eight decades, she sought God constantly. Each day, she lived in hope of his coming. She would watch all the people coming and going through the massive temple, hoping to see the promised One. The Bible says she was "very old" when God finally rewarded her faith. Simeon also lived at the temple. He too was waiting for the Messiah to come. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Surely, he and Anna had spoken of their shared hopes. One day, Anna saw Simeon with a poor young couple who had brought their first-born son to dedicate to the Lord. This was the moment both Simeon and Anna had been waiting for—the day Simeon had lived to see; the One for whom Anna had prayed her entire life: Turn to and read Luke 2:27-35. Coming up to them at that very moment, Anna saw the One she had longed to see. She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Read Luke 2:36-38. The crowds missed Jesus that day, but Anna had eyes to see him. Because she was a woman of faith God blessed Anna in a special way. She was privileged to live long enough to see the Savior come into his temple.

Taken from "Women of Faith New Testament" NIV 1997

Go!**Sink Or Swim****EXPERIMENT**

Materials: Clear glass, 7-up warm, chocolate chips, raisins, cheerios, fish crackers, button, paper clip, peanuts, and mini-marshmallow.

Quest Connection

Procedure: Slowly pour warm 7-up down the side of a clear glass trying not to disturb the bubbles of carbonation. Let each student pick an item they think will float. Experiment by letting students drop items in the glass one at a time. Which items float and which items sink and stay at the bottom?

I love experiments, how about you? We're going to see what sinks and swims today so each of you need to look at these items on the table and take a guess as to what you think will sink and what you think will swim. We'll start by placing 7-up in our glass and then I will give each of you a chance to place an item in the glass. (Give each student a chance to place items in the glass and slowly items will rise and fall) Were you looking forward to seeing what would sink and what would swim? I was too. How does that compare to how anxious Simeon and Anna were to see the Savior? They knew the world needed Jesus; they new everyone needed a Savior. Because, without Jesus we sink in sin. Simeon and Anna knew that and wanted to tell everyone about the Messiah.

Close

What can we do to show people we are excited about Jesus?

Go!**I Can't Wait!**

DISCUSSION

Materials: None

Quest Connection

Procedure: Have students brainstorm out loud different things in our lives that we have to wait on. For example, we wait in lines at the grocery, we have to wait on food to cook, we have to wait for summer vacation during each school year, we wait to turn 16 to get our driver's license. Then discuss what is the hardest things to wait for.

Usually it's the things we want the most, that we desire so greatly, that we have the hardest time waiting for. Simeon and Anna didn't just wait for a few weeks, and not even for a couple years, they waited their entire lives until they were older adults to see Jesus Christ. They must have desired to see Him so much that they did not ever stop believing they would, that they would meet Him in the temple. It was promised to Simeon and he waited for the promise to come true. Anna was faithful, staying at the temple day and night, and she was rewarded for her faithfulness. We too should wait to see the Lord again with great anticipation.

Close

Have each child name one thing that excites them about meeting Jesus.



Go!**Tell Me Your Story****Guest Quest**

Materials: Refreshments for guest and entire class

Quest Connection

Today we learned about 2 very important people that waited for years just to see Jesus. Do you remember what their names are? That's right, Simeon and Anna. We were able to learn about the first time they met Jesus. Today, we are going to have visitor who has come to our class to tell us about how they came to know Jesus. Just like we listened to our Bible story, I want us to listen to our guest's story.

Procedure: In advance, call a member in the church and ask them to join your class. Explain that the class will have learned the story of Simeon and Anna and you would like them to come tell their own "meeting Jesus" story, how they first learned about Him and their anticipation to meet Him face to face.

Close

Thank your guest for coming. Let students ask any questions they might have. Enjoy refreshments together. To end class, have students all sign a thank you card for your guest stating one thing they learned from them.

Go!**Trust****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Polaroid camera, Polaroid film, a stopwatch

Quest Connection

Procedure: Take turns, letting each student take a picture with the camera, a picture to keep and take home. Using a stopwatch, also let the students take turns timing how long it takes for the pictures to develop and if it varies depending on if you blow on the picture or wave it back and forth.

When you took the picture with the camera, were any of you nervous that the picture would not develop, that the film would stay gray and your picture wouldn't show up? Why did you trust that the camera and the film would work? That's what the camera was designed to do, to take instant pictures. Simeon and Anne knew God's design, that He was sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. They could trust in God and wait patiently to see His Son because they knew God's designs are perfect. While we wait on God to send His Son back to the earth we can trust in Him just like Simeon and Anna.

Close

Use the Polaroid pictures to bookmark the Bible story. Take one more picture of the entire class and hang it somewhere in your classroom to remind you of this week's lesson.



Go!**Discouraged****FOOD**

Materials: Cream filled donuts, paper plates, plastic knives, lots of napkins

Quest Connection

Procedure: Give each student a cream filled donut, a paper plate, plastic knife and several napkins. At the same time, have each student cut just the very tip off of their donut. No cream yet. Then cut another small slice off. Any cream? Have students cut very small slices, eating as they go, until they get to the cream. See how far some had to cut. Were all the donuts the same? Ask if anyone had ever eaten a cream filled donut and didn't get to any cream until the very end of the donut.

We knew these were cream filled donuts, so we knew we were going to eventually get to the cream on the inside. But it wasn't right away, we had to slice piece by piece and wait to find the cream. Simeon and Anna knew they were going to meet Jesus, but they had to wait, not knowing when they would see Him, just knowing eventually they would. Sometimes it can get discouraging when we are waiting on something we know is supposed to happen but hasn't happened yet. Can anyone think of a good example of when they've become discouraged or ready to give up while they were waiting? The Bible doesn't say that Simeon and Anne became discouraged, but we do know that even if they did, they remained faithful and continued to trust in God.

Close

When times in our life get hard and difficult, we can remember to continue to trust in God. He has promised that someday we will live in His kingdom where we won't have to experience sadness or pain or discouragement. We have to wait until He decides it's the right time, but while we wait, we need to remain faithful just like Simeon and Anna.

Go!**Promises****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: *Promises* worksheet, pencils

**Quest Connection**

Because God is perfect, He will always keep His promises. Simeon knew that God had promised he would see the Messiah before he died and so he trusted in God's promise and once he saw Jesus said he was ready to die. Promises that are made by dishonest people are hard to believe in. Sometimes we might be promised something and it turn out to not be true. How does that make you feel? Have you ever broken a promise to someone else. Because we are not perfect people, we will unfortunately break our promises, or we may have someone else break a promise they made to us. But from this Bible story, we can see the importance of keeping our promises. It builds trust in our relationships with each other and it brings joy when the promise is fulfilled. Let's take a few minutes to complete our worksheets together. Pass out worksheets and pencils.

Close

Dear God, we are so thankful that we can trust you. Without any doubt we know that your Word is true. Please help us to trust in you and become people that others can trust too.

PROMISES

Can you think of a situation where it would be hard to keep a promise?

If you had to guess, what percentage of promises they make, how many do most people keep?

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 5% 0%

What is one promise you know for sure you would always keep?

True or False:

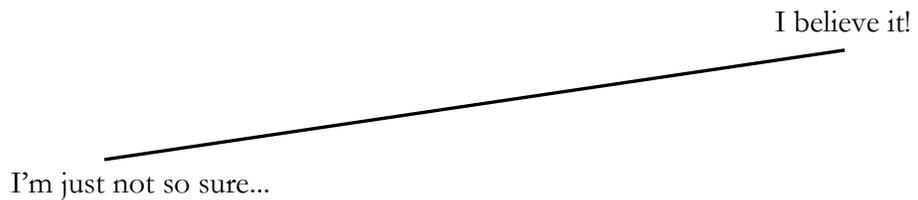
- 1. If a friend breaks a promise, you should stop being friends with them.* _____
- 2. Some promises don't have to be kept.* _____
- 3. You should tell someone if you think you can't keep a promise.* _____

Do you think most people would have waited like Simeon, trusting in God's promise?

Yes or No

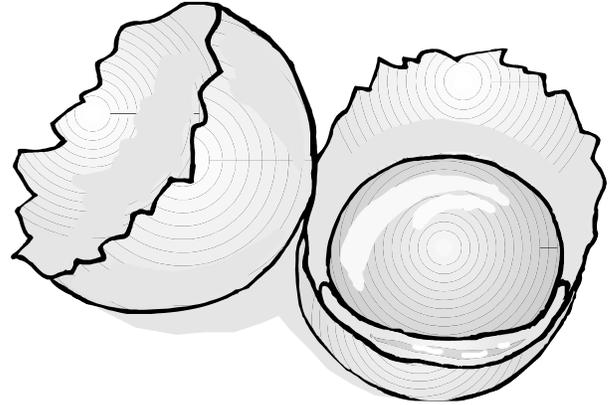
How much do I believe in God's promise to begin His Kingdom for His children?

(place an X on the line closest to what you think)



BIG WORD SCRAMBLE:

*Can you unscramble the big words below.
They are all found in Luke 2:25-38. Good Luck!*



ULMERJESA _____

EOHPRSESPT _____

SHIESAM _____

RISOPME _____

TISLVANOA _____

OMESIN _____

MLEPTE _____

GLTNEIES _____

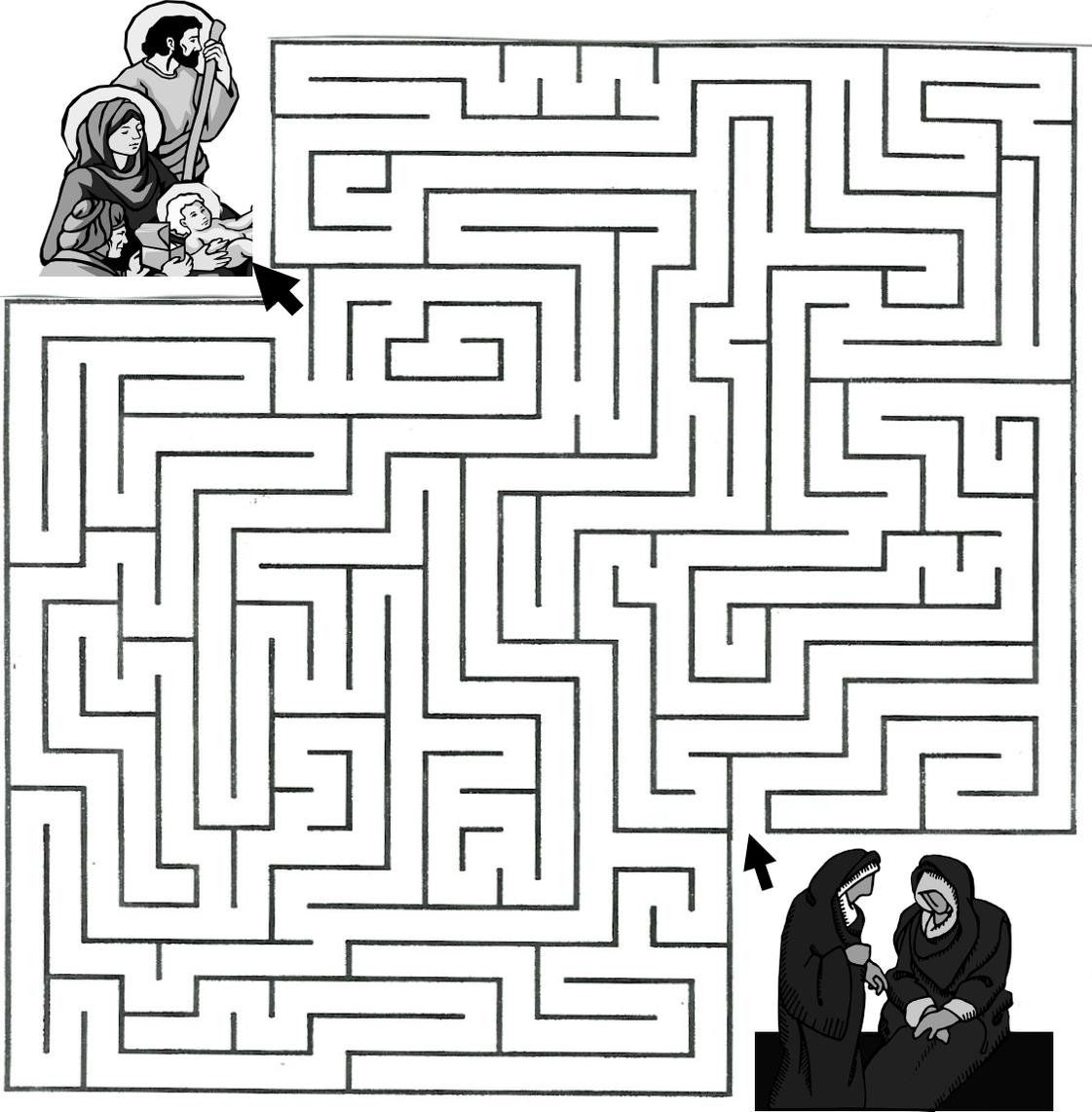
RLSEAI _____

ODWWI _____



Answers: Jerusalem, Prophets, Messiah, Promise, Salvation, Simeon, Temple, Gentiles, Israel, Widow

Can you help Simeon and Anna find Jesus in the temple?



Journal Page



Draw a picture of what you think the day looked like, or what Simeon and Anna looked like when they finally saw Jesus. Were they so happy they were crying? Were they so happy they laughed? Was it a sunny day? Who was watching?