Luke 2:21-40

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

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 waited patiently to see Jesus.

Feel: Happy that older people will share with us.

Do: Listen and respect older people about what God’s plans are for us.

Leader’s Devotion

In our fast paced world it is easy to forget the needs of the elderly. We learn from Simeon and Anna that they were servants of God who waited patiently to see the Messiah. When they saw Jesus they knew just what to say and everyone listened. The elderly in our congregations are to be respected and listened to. Some of these people can share with you experiences of answered prayer that would encourage anyone. Make plans to set aside some time this week to speak with an elderly member of your church and really listen to what they have to say. Let your light shine and their memories glow as you serve God!
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 He had a very smart doctor write down all the information so we would know exactly what happened. Would you like to know 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 an 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
How hard is it for you to wait to open your gifts on your birthday or Christmas?

In our story today, we’re going to learn about a man and woman who waited all their lives for a very special gift. A very long time ago, there was a very old man who was worshipping in the temple. A temple is what we call our church today. Now this very old man’s name was Simeon and must have been pretty much like your grandpa. Does your grandpa like to play with you and do special things with you? This very old man named Simeon loved to look at every baby that came to the temple. Every day when the moms and dads and babies came, he would smile at each one and wonder if this was the special one. He studied the Bible and knew that God was going to send a Savior to the world. He was very close to God and God promised Simeon that he would see Jesus. Even though Simeon was very old, he had a great gift to look forward to. What was that gift? Right, the gift that God was sending His son Jesus. And remember, God promised Simeon he would see Jesus before he died. So each day he watched to see every baby that entered the temple. Finally, a very special day came when he saw Mary and Joseph come into the temple to dedicate baby Jesus to God. Poor people brought either two pigeons or doves for an offering to God. Mary and Joseph brought two birds so we know that they were poor. Simeon looked down to admire the baby. All of a sudden, HE KNEW… THIS WAS THE SPECIAL BABY he had been waiting all his life to see. He looked at the baby and thanked God that the Savior was here. He was so happy that God had let him see Jesus. Mary and Joseph listened to Simeon and were pleased and marveled at the words Simeon was saying. Then Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph. Simeon thanked God for sending His son and keeping His promise. (Place blanket around your shoulders and place towel on your head as a drape) Just like Simeon was waiting to see Jesus, another person was in the temple waiting too. Anna walked up to Mary and Joseph and said, “My husband has been dead for many years. I have no children. I stay in the temple and worship God. I am eighty-four years old and God spoke to me. He promised me that I would see the Savior before I died. He is sent to save the world from their sins. Blessed is Jesus and blessed is the one who sent him. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Thank you, God! (Look up to heaven) Thank you, thank you, God!” (Take off the Bible costume of Anna)

All the people around Anna and Simeon listened as they thanked God for this precious gift. Simeon and Anna were very old but they had the respect of all the people. When they spoke and told about this precious Savior and the plans God had for him to be the Messiah and save the world, everyone listened! People knew that Anna and Simeon were very close to God and they wanted to know what was going on. Simeon and Anna trusted in God and were patient in waiting to see Jesus. People listened to Anna and Simeon. How can you learn more about God and His son Jesus? How do we talk to God and thank Him?
Sink Or Swim

EXPERIMENT

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

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? Without Jesus we sink in sin. Simeon and Anna knew that and wanted to tell everyone about the Messiah.

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?

What can we do to show people we are excited about seeing Jesus?
Unit 8—Simeon and Anna

**Go!**

**Baby Face Cookies**

**FOOD**

**Materials:** Sugar cookies, icing, M & M’s, red licorice peel-apart, napkin, Popsicle stick

**Quest Connection**

How many of you have younger brothers or sisters? Do you remember how happy you were the first time you saw that special baby? Simeon and Anna were really old and had waited for years and years to see the new baby who was the promised Savior. Place a big smile on your baby with the red licorice and think of how happy we make God when we tell other people about His son.

**Procedure:** Give each student a sugar cookie placed on a napkin. Have them spread icing with a Popsicle stick over the cookie and place M & M’s for eyes and licorice strings for mouth.

“Dear God, Thank You for keeping Your promise and sending Your son! Thank You for all the people who help us learn more about You and Jesus! In His name, Amen.”
Go!

Popsicle Puppets

ART/CRAFT

Materials: 2 paint sticks, yarn, markers or paint, optional fabric scraps

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. What did we learn about Simeon and Anna that made them so special? How do we learn from people that are older than us? How can you show respect to these people? Why are you looking forward to seeing Jesus? Are you looking forward to God’s Kingdom? Let’s use our puppets and re-tell the story.

Procedure: Give each student 2 paint sticks, markers, yarn for hair, fabric scraps, and glue. Draw the face and clothes on with pencil and then use markers or paint to fill in color. Glue yarn hair on or staple it on. A scarf or headpiece can be glued on for Bible time characters.

Close

Have puppets tell them about God sending His Son. Have Simeon and Anna thank God for seeing Jesus. Are you waiting to see Jesus? Why are you looking forward to seeing Jesus? What will be different when Jesus is here?
**Quest Connection**

Today we’re going to play Bible Bingo. Each picture represents something in our lesson today. While we play this game remember that Anna and Simeon were patiently waiting to seeing Jesus just like we are today.

**Procedure:** Give each student a Bingo card and set of pictures to cut out. Re-tell the story as they cut their pictures apart. Let each student glue pictures where they wish so no two Bingo cards are the same. (Teacher has a cut-out set of BIBLE in one baggie and a set of pictures in the other baggie. Shake up baggie 1 and draw a letter out, call it, and replace it in baggie, select a picture out of baggie 2, call it and replace it; continue until you have a winner.) Students should cover the picture with M & M’s when the teacher calls it out. The first student to get 5 in a row should call out BIBLE and is the winner.

**Close**

Take your Bible Bingo card home and re-tell the story to your mom and dad and brothers and sisters. Remember that we should be looking forward to seeing Jesus just like Simeon and Anna.
Go!

Elephant Ears

FOOD

Materials: Flour tortilla, soft margarine, cinnamon, sugar, knife, napkin

Quest Connection

Today we’re learning about listening and having respect for other people. What can you think of that has huge ears? The biggest ears I could think of were elephant ears and I think they should really be able to hear well. Let’s make a snack to remind us to listen and learn what God has to say.

Procedure: Give each student a tortilla and have them spread margarine on with a knife. Let each sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on their tortilla, fold in half and microwave for 10 seconds. It is not necessary to microwave before eating but it does taste better. Enjoy!

Close

Let’s thank God for everything He has given us and listen to what He wants for us. Be silent after you pray and use your ears to listen to God.
Go!

Care Cards

CREATIVE WRITING

Materials: Construction Paper, white paper, markers, pencils, glue, envelopes

Quest Connection

Simeon and Anna worshipped in the temple and waited to see Jesus. They told everyone about the Savior. The older people in our church have taught us about Jesus. We’re going to make cards to let them know how much we appreciate them. Think of someone special and make a card and give it to them.

Procedure: Cut construction paper to fit inside an envelope when it is folded in half. Cut white paper slightly smaller than construction paper. Let children be creative at their card making and then glue a small line down the fold line of the construction paper and attach inside of the card that is the white paper. Send the cards to the elderly in the church to let them know you care.

Close

“Thank you God for letting us listen and learn. Help us listen to You! Amen”
| B | I | B* | L | E
|---|---|----|---|---

7

FREE

SIN

GOD
Each day I will do something special to show somebody I care!

### Showing I Care Calendar

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Color the © spaces in red. Color all the blank spaces in blue. Write the word that you’ve discovered in the spaces below.

Respect and Admire are a lot alike. Can you explain the meaning of respect or admire?

“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad…” Psalm 32:11a
Circle the item that shows what Jesus was or is. X out all other items.

“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad…” Psalm 32:11a
Can you help Simeon and Anna find Jesus in the temple?

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