

*Get Ready!*

**Hello, Messiah**  
**By Wally Winner**



**Text**

Luke 2:21-40

**Key Quest Verse**

So Jesus grew both tall and wise and was loved by God and man. Luke 2:40 TLB

**Bible Background**

There are a number of books now on the missing years of Jesus' life. This all adds to the oral tradition that has dealt primarily with the boyhood of Jesus. However, all that is definitely known of Jesus' youth is contained in this last part of chapter two of Luke. All the little details concerning his growth and development as a child are kept from us.

We do not know at what age He spoke His first word (did He speak a full sentence?). We do not know when He took His first step (did He walk immediately across the room?). How did He play with His brothers and sisters? Was there any sibling rivalry? Did He ever disobey Mary or Joseph? The answer is: We don't know?

Why don't we have all that information? As interesting as some of the material might be, it is not important to the ministry and example of Jesus.

We do have Mary and Joseph going to the Temple after the proper days of purification to make their offering based on their income. Waiting there were both Simeon and Anna. Both were waiting for the appearance of the Messiah. Both recognized the Messiah when they saw Him.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

**Know:** God will keep all of His promises about Christ's coming

**Feel:** Excited about the second coming of Christ

**Do :** Live as if Jesus was coming today

**Leader's Devotion**

Parents are thrilled over their children's accomplishments. They want them to advance physically and intellectually. If they are little more advanced than other children in some areas...well, that doesn't hurt. Parents keep growth charts on the wall to measure each new inch of growth. They await the report cards to see how they are doing.

Mary and Joseph had all the pressures of developing a child. However, this child was the Son of God. They began His spiritual growth by an appearance at the Temple. They were following the instructions of the Mosaic Law. They made the necessary sacrifices to begin the spiritual education of Jesus.

The Bible is very detailed on the principles of child development. Emphasis is on teaching and raising children with the Kingdom of God as their goal. Scriptures portray many benefits and blessings to following these biblical instructions.

Jesus grew physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Mary and Joseph did a grand job. The responsibility is on us as parents and the body of Christ to provide the climate that we can see these four areas being developed in our young people. Correctly done, it pays off for the family, the church and the Kingdom of God.

Get Set!

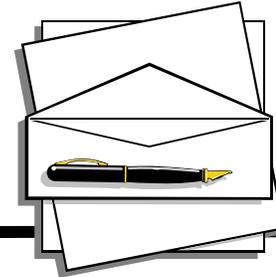


**Option A**

**Materials:** A box (the bigger the better), a meaningless item (old towel, a rag, etc.), a big bow and possibly paper to wrap the box.

Put the item inside the box, wrap it, put on the bow. Place it in the room well ahead of class time. Ask the students: If this box could contain anything, what would you want to be in it? After a few minutes, open the box. Ask: Did the [item] live up to your expectations? It is great to have hope and expectations. That really is a definition of the Christian life.

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**



**Option B**

**Materials:** Envelopes, slips of paper

You are the Prize Patrol. Write on the slips some possible prizes for the students (no more school, free gum for life, a college education, one week vacation to Disney World, a right-handed glove, a used pencil, etc.). Put the slips in the envelopes and seal them. Let the students pick one at random. After they open them, discuss how they feel about the prize they received. Point out that God didn't send His Son at any time in history. The gift of His Son is better than anything we can imagine.

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

*Get Set!***Bible Story**

Luke 2:21-40 (NIV)

[21] On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. [22] When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord [23] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), [24] and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” [25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. [27] Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, [28] Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: [29] “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. [30] For my eyes have seen your salvation, [31] which you have prepared in the sight of all the people, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel.” [33] The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. [34] Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against. [35] so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” [36] There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, [37] and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. [38] Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. [39] When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth, [40] And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

**Go!****In the News****GAME****Materials:** Newspapers, scissors, scavenger lists**Quest Connection**

Although the people of Israel had been looking for and discussing the Messiah for centuries, most did not recognize Him as the Messiah at His first advent. The same is true today about His second. On every survey taken in America, most people will acknowledge that Jesus will return to earth. However, their everyday lives are so busy with other events, they are not living as if He might come today. Simeon and Anna spent their lives looking for the Messiah and they were ready for Him.

**Procedure:** Go through a pile of newspapers and prepare scavenger lists of news stories, cartoons, etc. (a picture of a man working, a Peanuts cartoon, weather information....). Divide the class into groups and give each a list. Let them go through the newspapers and find their items. First team that completes their list is the winning team.

Discuss the following questions:

What story was the most repeated in the newspapers you looked through?

Do you think people are as interested in it as when it first became news?

When you think about the Second Coming of Christ, how do you feel?

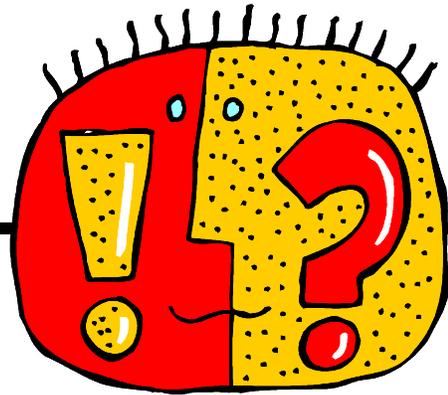
Why is the return of Christ important?

What will happen when Christ returns?

Why didn't Jesus tell us when He was coming back?

**Close**

Have the different groups pray to live in preparation for Christ's return.

**Go!****Why? Because****GAME****Materials:** 3x5 cards and pencils**Quest Connection**

We often spend time asking the question “why” about passages of Scripture or the circumstances of life. Why does God allow such and such to happen? This passage gives opportunity to ask the question “why” about several things. However, one of the things we see in this story is that God keeps His promises and particularly His promise to save His people. Promises to individuals are important with God.

**Procedure:** Give all the students two cards. Have the group write out a question beginning with the word “why” (Why do dogs chase cats?) on one of the cards. Then have everybody write out an answer on the second card that begins with the word “because” (Because they hate each other). Collect the cards keep the “Why” questions and the “Because” separate. Shuffle the cards and redistribute them at random. Have the kids read the question they received with the answer they received.

Discuss the following questions:

- Why is so little information given us concerning the childhood of Jesus?
- Why do you think the story of Simeon and Anna is included?
- Why was this such a meaningful experience for Simeon?
- Why is it important to grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually?

**Close**

Explain to the students that God places people around us to help us confirm the mission He has for us. Pray that we will welcome them and listen to them.

**Go!****A Phone Call From God****LISTENING**

**Materials:** The recording “Phone Call From God” or have someone read the skit on Resource page “Phone Call From God”

**Quest Connection**

We all desire personal relationships. During the teenage years, acceptance by friends is so important. We don't like to feel left out. During the teen years, the teenager's concept of God changes. It is a good time to think of God in more personal terms.

**Procedure:** Play excerpts or read a “Phone Call From God”

Discuss the following questions:  
How does God speak to us today?

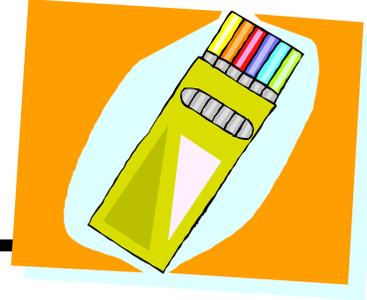
Do you think you could ever get as close to God as Simeon and Anna?

When do you feel closest to God?

What hinders your communication with God?

**Close**

Let the class spend time in the quietness of individual silent reflection and prayer on their relationship with God.

**Go!****Success In Life****BRAINSTORMING**

**Materials:** Felt pens in various colors and a large sheet of newsprint.

**Quest Connection**

Everybody wants to feel like they are a success. Success has to do with us feeling we have value. We want other people to value us and think we are worthwhile. Different people have different ideas about what success is. One verse here in Luke telling us how Jesus grew really gives a basis for Biblical success.

**Procedure:** Let the students write on the newsprint who they think are successful. Let them record what they think success is. What does success look like?

Discuss the following questions:

Why do you think that many people believe being a success in life means getting “things”?

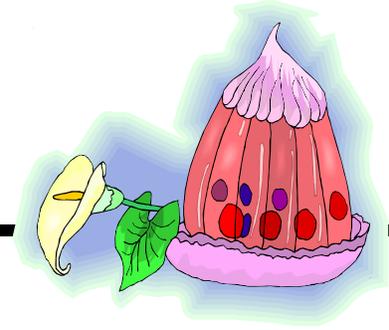
Would it be wrong to get any of these “things”?

What is the danger of chasing after wealth, popularity or power?

How does the way Jesus grew, physically, mentally, socially and spiritually relate to being successful?

**Close**

Join hands and pray together that God helps them sort out the really important things in life with the non-essentials.

**Go!****Hello Jell-O!****FOOD**

**Materials:** A serving of JELL-O for everybody

**Quest Connection**

When Simeon had his first contact with the Messiah, he began to praise God. Praise is saying thank you to God for His divine guidance in this world. Our inward attitude becomes outward expression. When we praise God, we help ourselves by expanding our awareness of who He is. We remember the salvation that comes through Jesus.

**Procedure:** Give each student a serving of Jello. Tell them they are going to replace Bill Cosby as the Jello spokesman. Let each student audition for the part of Jello pitchman.

Discuss the following questions:

How difficult was it to praise Jello?

How difficult is it to praise God?

What form should our praise to God take?

Can you identify a time in your worship service where praise to God occurs?

**Close**

Let the students spend some time in “popcorn” prayer praising God.

## Do It Today!

Our spiritual lives depend on us spending time with God. If you want to be obedient to God and you want to have a growing relationship with Him, it is important for you to spend time with Him. There are a lot of ways to do this. Check the things that you do each day. Put your initials on the things you wish you did more.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tell a joke

\_\_\_\_\_ Exercise

\_\_\_\_\_ Do homework

\_\_\_\_\_ Read some part of God's Word

\_\_\_\_\_ Call a friend

\_\_\_\_\_ Talk to God

\_\_\_\_\_ Crave sweets

\_\_\_\_\_ Make my bed

\_\_\_\_\_ Sing in the shower

\_\_\_\_\_ Watch TV

\_\_\_\_\_ Eat some junk food

\_\_\_\_\_ Read part of newspaper, book or magazine

\_\_\_\_\_ Floss my teeth

Place an X on the line below, indicating which direction you are moving in your relationship with God.

Closer to God

Away from God

## He's Coming!

A trip to the amusement park is a time of excitement. Everybody looks forward to the next thing to do. Simeon and Anna expressed their emotions when their faith became flesh in the Messiah. There will be a physical, visible return of Jesus to this earth. What emotions do the Second Coming of Christ generate in you?

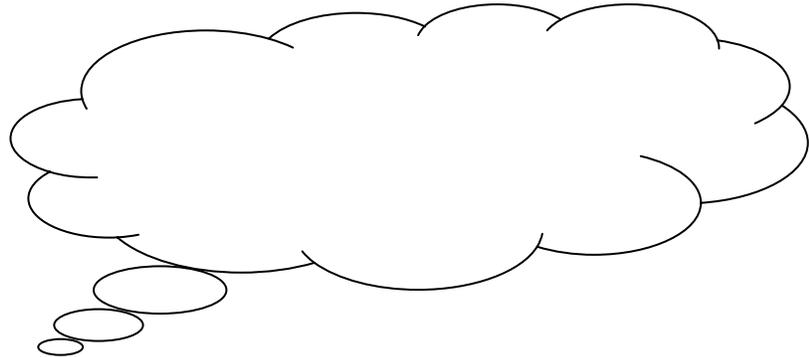
The Second Coming of Christ causes me to feel...(check those that are true).

Happy       Worried       Excited       Scared  
 Hoping it doesn't happen for a while       Peaceful       Don't Know

What would you do if you knew that Christ would return for certain next month?

What are some things you would like to know about the Second Coming?

Who/where do you go to find answers to your Second Coming questions?



## Finding God

Finding God's will for our life requires us to listen a little longer, look a little deeper, read a little more, ask more questions. Look carefully at these sentences. A book of the Bible is concealed in each one. This may require you to listen, look, read and ask.

Here are the facts.

Eugene's is the best report.

Buy that small ukulele.

The robin has a nest here.

Is that hose attached?

Joe, let the cat alone.

Pure mica heats slowly.

A rut has been made.

Is this a ripe terrapin?

A most amusing book!

She brews a good cup of tea.

It was a markdown sale.

She drops alms in every beggar's cup.

I hope you get a good job.





## Journal Page



The Jews made a serious error regarding prophecy. They emphasized certain prophecies about the Messiah – those that had to do with His powerful reign.

Most were not astute as Simeon and Anna, who recognized the Messiah. Jot down some things that you think might be over emphasized about Christ's Second Coming.

Also, record some areas of about the Second Advent that you are going to get clarified.

Things on the Second Coming that might be over emphasized....



# A Phone Call From God



(Reader will be talking on the phone throughout the reading. Be sure to pause after questions as if listening to God on the other end!))

PHONE RINGS!

**Reader:** Hello? Long distance? what do you mean am I a Christian? Who is calling? Heaven? Is that you Gary? (in disbelief) No? It really is heaven? Why, yeas, I'm a Christian? Operator, this ain't a collect call is it?

Hello? Yes Sir! Yes Sir! I'm thrilled to death that You called, I truly am. Well, yes sir, it's good to hear from You. You haven't heard from me for awhile? You know, its funny, but just last night I was going to pray. Yes I was. My wife and I were laying in bed, listening to the television watching "Law and Order", and I told her that as soon as this program is over, I'm gonna switch off the set, say my prayers and go to sleep. But you know... we set the timer on the TV, and I got so tired that I was asleep before that show was over. I mean it's not that I didn't want to pray. I was so tired I just went plum off to sleep, Lord. But I tell You what I'm gonna do— I'm gonna do better. I'm gonna start tonight. I'll say my prayers tonight whether I need to or not!

Sir? Yes sir, I go to church! I sure do! Every Sunday, well, almost every Sunday. I'm a faithful church member. Yes sir. Did I go last Sunday? Yes sir, I sure did! What did the preacher preach about? Well...he preached about...uh....it was on....he referred to Mat-the...uh....Isai...uh, no, that was a couple of months ago....let me see...Sir? Did I go the week before? Well you know, I can't make it every week, Lord, I'd like to , but I can't go every week. After all, I work hard all week, and I need a little time for myself on the weekend. And that particular Sunday was so pretty that I went.....what's that? Oh! You know where I went. Yes sir. I caught two stripers and four crappies.

What's that? Yes sir! I'm a good steward. Now, by that You mean tithing, giving to the church? Yes sir, I'm a REAL good steward. Yes sir, I give to the church. Every Sunday! What? Well, yes sir , every Sunday that I go. Am I growing with the church? Yes sir, I sure am. Just last Sunday I gave \$5 more than I did the time before that! Sir? Well, yes sir, that's right , there wasn't change for a twenty in the collection plate when it came by me last Sunday. How's that? What do You mean I'm not a faithful steward? Lord, I gave over \$500 last year! And after all, I...sir? You mean do I understand what stewardship means? I...it means that everything I have belongs to You, and you want me to give the first 10% of everything back to You. Well.....Lord....I tell You, right now You kinda got me in a bind. It's gonna be kinda hard to give any more right now.... yes sir, !0%. But I told You, I gave over \$500 last year! How much did my wife and I make last year? Was it over \$50,000? Yes sir, it sure was. But I guess you already know that, don't you? What percent is that? About 1%.

## **A Phone Call From God continued**

Let me tell You, Lord. I understand what You're asking for, but let me explain. You see, If I don't pay my mortgage, they'll take my house. If I don't pay my utilities, they shut off the water and the power. I've got to keep making payments on my boat, or they're gonna come take it away. And then I've a few medical bills to pay, as if those doctors need anymore money! Now once I get all those things paid for, and then put my kids through college, I figured I'd start tithing then. Yes Sir! If I don't pay for those things, we'd have to do without! What? Well, If I don't pay my tithe, nothing happens, right? pardon? where did I get all this stuff from? Who gave it to me? Nobody gave it to me, Lord. I worked hard for all I've got! what's that .....oh, yes if You want to get technical, I guess it does all come from You...10%? Well, Lord if I don't make my boat payment, they're gonna come and get it, and then I won't have it!...If I didn't have a boat payment, maybe it would be easier for me to tithe? Yes Sir, I guess it would. You think maybe I have my priorities mixed up? Well, yes sir, maybe I do.

What's that? Am I involved in my church? You bet I am. Yes, sir. I'm very involved in my church. Every time somebody comes by here to tell me there is something going on at that church that shouldn't, I'm the first one to jump all over the preacher and tell him what I think!

How's that, Lord? The main reason you called? You want to make sure I understand how much you love me? Well thank you, Lord! I love You, too. What do I think Your love is? How would I describe Your love? Is that a trick question, Lord? Oh, it's not a trick question and it's not hard. The answer is easy? I guess the answer would be Jesus. Yes sir. I remember what I learned about Him. You loved me enough to have Him die on the cross to take care of all the sin I've done. Yes, sir. I believe that. I believe that His death really did pay for my sins. Yes sir, I believe He rose again from the dead.

You know what, Lord? I think I know where You're going with all this. When I remember all that You've done for me....well, I'm gonna do better. I will do better. Yes sir. I haven't considered all the blessings You've sent my way. Yes sir, I know that it is a blessing to be able to worship You in this country without violating man-made laws.

Uh Lord, if I'm gonna do better, I'll need Your help. You will? Thank You, Lord. Yes sir. and it's been good talking to You, too. I'm glad You called. OK, Bye now.

(Looking off to the side) What's that dear? who was on the phone? You'd never believe me if I told you!

No, it wasn't a wrong number. Boy, did He have my number!