

Reality – Bible Lesson for May 3, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

New Testament Section One: The Life of Jesus Lesson 1: Simeon and Anna

- 1. Lesson: Simeon and Anna**
- 2. Scripture:** Luke 2:22-38
- 3. Memory Verse:** "I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people." Luke 2:30-31
- 4. Mission Story:** Brother Andrew – Part 1
- 5. Bible Skills:** Next week
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity (Object Lesson):** **Beginning Activity:** a glass of water; an index card or a used playing card; a bowl (as a precaution) **Memory Verse Game: Elementary** – memory verse cut into individual words and taped to the bottoms of chairs IN ADVANCE

Video you can use to reinforce the story:

Elementary (Crossroad Kids):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkJbo>

1. Prayer and Welcome Activity: Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson that will lead into the Bible story:

Say: I have a glass of water here. If I were to tip the glass upside down, water would fall out, right? But what if I put an index card (or an old playing card) over the top of the glass before I turn it over?

Cover the cup with an index card or an old playing card, making sure that the card completely covers the mouth of the container.

Keep your hand on the card and turn the cup upside down. Hold the cup over the bowl just in case you accidentally spill.

Slowly take your hand away and the card will stay in place . . . and so should the water (Don't do this too long, because the card will start to soak up water and let air in) Put your hand on the card and return the glass to its upright position.

Say: The air pressure inside the glass is holding the card up. It's a pretty powerful force, right? But, can you see the air inside the glass? No, you can't. But we can all see the effect it's having, can't we?

(Why this experiment works... When you first turn the cup upside down, the pressure of the air inside the cup and the air pressure outside the cup are equal. If you look closely, however, you'll notice that just a little water leaks out between the card and the cup. This happens because the force of gravity naturally pulls down on the water. When some of the water escapes, this causes the volume of air (the space above the water inside the cup) to increase slightly. Even though the amount of air above the water stays the same, the volume occupied by the air is now greater and the air pressure inside the cup decreases. The pressure of the air outside the cup is now greater than the pressure inside the cup and the card stays in place. All of this is possible because the water creates an airtight seal between the rim of the cup and the card. When the seal is broken (even a tiny bit), air enters into the cup, equalizes the pressure, and gravity pushes the water out.)

Faith is like the air pressure inside the glass. Faith is believing in God and His promises even though we can't see God or what He is doing. Faith is knowing what God has already done for us and believing He will continue to take care of us in the future. We can put our Faith in God. Even though we cannot see Him, we can be sure that He is working all things together for our good.

Today we have a lesson that shows that putting our trust, our hope, our FAITH in God is the best thing we can ever do. Our story, today, is about two people who asked to see the Messiah in their lifetimes. They had to wait a long time, but God answered their prayers. Let's learn about Simeon and Anna...

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

Ask your children: (Allow for responses after each question.) What are some things you wait for? What is the longest time you have had to wait for something? Is there anything you're still waiting for? Are you praying for someone you know and waiting for God to answer your prayers?

Say: Waiting isn't always easy but if we believe that God hears us, we have faith that He will answer our prayers. Sometimes His answer is yes, sometimes it's no, and sometimes it might be for us to wait. God will answer in His own timing.

Our lesson takes us back to the birth of Jesus. Many years before that, God had given Moses laws for His people to obey. One of those laws was that a Jewish family was to take their firstborn son to the temple in Jerusalem to have him dedicated to the Lord forty days after his birth. **(Luke 2:22-24)** Mary and Joseph loved and obeyed God so, when it was time, they took Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God. They traveled the eight miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, there lived a man named Simeon. He loved God, was very sincere in his faith, and lived a life that was pleasing to God. The Bible records, "The Holy Spirit was with him." **(Luke 2:25)** He was constantly seeking the Lord and waiting for the promise of the Messiah, the deliverer, to come to Israel. Earlier in Simeon's life, God had promised him that he would not die until he had seen, with his own eyes, the Promised Christ (the Messiah). **(Luke 2:26)** We aren't told how old Simeon was when God made that promise to him, but the Bible does tell us that he believed the promise and waited for the day that he would see the Christ. He must have constantly been watching for the Messiah to come. Even as he got older, he never gave up faith that God would do as He said.

On the day that Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus into Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon had waited for this day for a very long time. He eagerly went to the temple and went inside. There, he saw a young woman holding a baby in her arms. Her husband was standing next to her. God's Spirit told Simeon that this baby was the promised Savior. Overjoyed, Simeon went immediately to Mary and reached out to hold her baby. Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms and began to praise God. He said, "Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all nations. It is a light to be given to the Gentiles. It will be the glory of your people Israel." **(Luke 2:29-32)** Imagine his great amazement that he was holding the Savior of the world, the Creator of the universe in his arms!

Mary and Joseph were astounded at the words of Simeon. He was giving praise to God and thanking Him for allowing him to see the Messiah before he died. When he finished blessing them, Simeon prophesied about Jesus' future. He knew that, although the nation of Israel had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah to come, many would not follow Him. Looking to Mary, he told her that a sword would pierce her heart. **(Luke 2:33-35)** He was probably referring to the pain Mary would experience as she witnessed how Jesus would suffer for our sins on the Cross.

There was another person watching in the temple that day. She was an 84-year-old widow named Anna. She had been married for only 7 years when her husband died. She then lived the rest of her life serving God in the temple. She was known as a prophetess. She remained in the temple, worshipping God, every day and night. When she saw baby Jesus, she also knew that He was the promised Messiah. She immediately thanked God for sending the Savior who was going to take away the sins of the world. Then she spread the news to all who were looking for redemption that the Messiah had come! **(Luke 2:36-38)**

Simeon and Anna knew that Jesus was God's promised Savior. The Bible gives us the rest of the story about this Baby. Jesus grew up and lived a perfect life – obeying all of God's laws. He died on the Cross for our sins and rose again in glory to be seated at the right hand of God. Once we know that Jesus is our Savior, we live our lives by faith. We trust in His promise that He will return some day. And while we wait, we can live each

day of our lives learning more about Him. We can study our Bibles, pray for our family and friends, and live in a way that is pleasing to God.

We can be like Simeon and Anna – keeping an attitude of worship, obeying and praising God, and thanking Him for all He has done – especially for sending His Son, Jesus. We can know, without a doubt, that Jesus promises to always be with us – and He always keeps His promises.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph have to take Jesus to the Temple? (It was required by Jewish law to take a firstborn son to the Temple at 40 days of age to dedicate them to the Lord.)
2. What did God promise Simeon? (That he would see the Messiah before he died.)
3. How did God keep his promise to Simeon? (The Holy Spirit told Simeon the exact time to go to the Temple to see Jesus.)
4. What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? (He thanked and praised God and blessed the family. He also prophesized about Jesus' coming days.)
5. Who was Anna? (An 84-year-old widow who was also a prophetess. She spent all day and night worshipping God in the Temple.)
6. What did Anna do when she saw Jesus? (She gave thanks to God and told others about the Savior.)
7. What do we need to believe by faith? (We need to honor God and believe in His promises. We need to live a life that is pleasing to God.)
8. How should we live our lives as we wait for God's promises? (Keep an attitude of worship, obeying and praising God...thanking Him for all He has done and will do.)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

Say: Simeon and Anna spent a good bit of their time worshipping God. The Bible records that Anna "worshipped night and day". Worship is giving honor, reverence, and praise to God, the response of people to God. It is not just a feeling or a thought, it is an ACTION – something you do to honor God. God created you to be a worshiper. He wants to have a relationship with you – that's why He sent His Son, Jesus

Before you can worship God, you have to know Him. The more you know about God, the more reasons you have to worship Him. And the more you know God, the more you want to worship Him. When you make God the most important part of your life, you will want to make choices that please Him, including worship.

Worship can take many different forms. One of the most common ways of worship is by singing songs, but you can also read Bible verses, pray, dance, clap your hands, lift your hands, sit quietly, serve others, or listen to music. These are just a few ways people worship. Worship is whatever you do to tell God how awesome He is and agreeing there is nothing more important than Him.

So, today, we're going to go through some "worship stations". You can choose which one or ones you'd like to do. The first station is for the "artsy ones", the second is for the "writing ones", the third one is for the "ideas ones", and the fourth is for the "poetry ones".

Station #1: Let's read Psalm 18:1-2 – "I love you, LORD. You give me strength. The LORD is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me. My God is my rock. I go to him for safety. He is like a shield to me. He's the power that saves me. He's my place of safety." Using drawing material, create an image that, in some way, expresses these verses.

Station #2: Take out your Bibles and read Psalm 8. Now rewrite the Psalm in your own words. How would you say this to God?

Station #3: Make a graffiti board with ideas and pictures of how to worship on your own. Include an area for other people to write their ideas of worship as well.

Station #4: Choose from the following list to write a poem of praise to God. It can be any length you choose: holy, steadfast, glorious, faithful, just, awesome, loving, mighty, good, forgiving, true, merciful, tender-hearted, perfect, my Father, my Savior, Lord of Lords, Alpha and Omega, the Great "I Am", Messiah, beloved, and King of Kings.

Pray: God, thank you for the freedom we have to worship You. There is nothing more important in my life than You. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. Spend time praying for anyone that needs to be restored. (Take prayer requests) End your time of prayer in a worship song.]

5.Mission Story: Brother Andrew – Part 1

Brother Andrew started with bold beginnings by smuggling Bibles into Eastern Europe in 1955, started "Open Doors" to serve the persecuted church, and wrote "God's Smuggler," one of the best-selling Christian books of all time. He is 91 years old.

Brother Andrew has a last name – a Dutch family name (van der bijl)– but when he began visiting Christians in Communist countries, he found that most believers called each other by their first names only – for safety's sake. In Communist countries a country's government controls everything.

Andrew grew up in Holland in the years between the two world wars. Andrew often created his own adventure – or mischief – when he needed to exercise his imagination. When the German soldiers rolled into his little village in 1940, he decided to do a little mischief and put sugar in the soldiers' gas tanks and burned firecrackers outside their headquarters. Holland was freed from the Germans in 1944 but Andrew continued to

want to create adventures and joined the Dutch army in the East Indies to put down rebellions. He was so daring; he would wear a bright yellow straw hat to dare the enemy to shoot him. He did get shot, but only in the ankle.

As he was in a hospital bed, recovering from his injury, he began to read the Bible from cover to cover. When he was released from the hospital, he found a church to attend every night of the week. Finally, one night he prayed, "Lord, if you will show me the way, I will follow you." God wanted Andrew to be a missionary, but he needed training. He took a 2-year course with the World Evangelization Crusade and in 1955, he came face-to-face with his destiny. At that time, atheistic communism was taking away religious freedom from country after country. He decided to secretly travel to these countries to help the believers.

What Brother Andrew found astounded him...Even pastors at the remaining churches didn't have Bibles. So, Andrew decided to start smuggling Bibles into Communist countries. At first, he did this all alone...then God gave him a wife, Corrie, and more people to join him. They smuggled Bibles into communist areas in Europe, China, Cuba, and Africa and they began an organization that is still doing tremendous work in the world – called Open Doors International.

One story that is told about Brother Andrew is when he was training at the World Evangelization Crusade in Scotland. He only had enough money to pay for the first semester's tuition. He didn't know how he was going to get money for the second semester so he prayed, "Lord, if this is where you want me to be and what you want me to do, I ask you to supply the rest of my fees."

During the semester, all the students were sent out on missionary tours through Scotland. Each student was given a one-pound note – which he or she had to pay back at the end of the four-week tour. The rules were simple: They were not allowed to take up collections or mention their material needs to anyone. It was an exercise in trusting the Lord to meet their needs. Andrew's team made an additional promise to the Lord: They would tithe whatever the Lord provided.

They soon found that the Lord provided just what they needed; no more and no less. They were invited into homes for a night or a meal and once a church, where they spoke, sent them a check that had a note attached to it that read, "We are sending this, even though you don't need money, or you would have mentioned it." Once, after Andrew's group boldly invited some young people to come back for "tea" the next day, even though they had nothing to feed them, a package arrived just minutes before the young people came that had a cake in it.

When Andrew's team got back to school, they had 10 pounds (about 12 Euros) – five to repay the one-pound loans, and five to send to WEC missionaries. Then Andrew found a letter waiting for him at school from friends back home in Holland – it had exactly 30 pounds (about 35 Euros) enclosed...exactly what he needed to pay his second-semester tuition fees.

Andrew became excited about how God was going to meet his next need. He made it a move of trust. One day he ran out of laundry soap. Searching his pockets, all he came up with was six pence. Soap cost eight pence. In faith he set out for the store. There was a sign on the store window: "Sale on laundry soap...two pence off!" Andrew walked back to school whistling, the box of soap under his arm. It was important for Andrew to learn how to trust God every step of the way in the ministry God had prepared for him. He lovingly called his newfound way of trust, "The Game of the Royal Way."

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:25, 33

6. Bible Skills: Next week

7. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – "I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people." Luke 2:30-31

Elementary: Play Hot Seat Bible Verses

Write or type the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Cut the words apart. Tape a word under random chairs and tables. After your kids are seated, ask them to look under their chairs to see if they are sitting in one of the "hot seats" – a chair that has a word under it. Whoever finds a word under their chair brings it to the front. The kids must arrange the words, so that they are in the correct order.

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.