

## Reality – Bible Lesson for May 3, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. **The Beginner's Bible:** Pages 282 - 285

7. **Materials useful in teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity (Object Lesson)** a glass of water; an index card or a used playing card; a bowl (as a precaution) **Craft:** "God's Gift" downloaded template – one for each child; curling ribbon of various colors; one or two single hole punches; stickers (optional) **Memory Verse Game: Elementary** – memory verse cut into individual words and taped to the bottoms of chairs IN ADVANCE **Extra Game:** 10 plastic cups or bottles, permanent marker, foam or lightweight ball

#### Craft:

[https://digin-resources.group.com/media/8395/q1\\_lesson-03\\_gods-gift\\_handout\\_life-of-jesus.pdf](https://digin-resources.group.com/media/8395/q1_lesson-03_gods-gift_handout_life-of-jesus.pdf)

(The actual picture of the craft is on this page. It wouldn't download, but you can print it out)

<http://storage.cloversites.com/stillwaterscommunityunitedmethodistchurch/documents/lesson-3-simeon-and-anna-see-jesus-one-room.pdf>

#### Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

Preschool video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1AS8RbJPyU>

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:**

**Ask the 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. 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." 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). 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 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." 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. 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!

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.

### **Preschool Story:**

What can you tell me about the birth of Jesus? (wait for responses) He was born in a stable, there was a beautiful star in the sky that pointed to where He was born, angels came to tell shepherds about his birth, and much more. He was born in a really special way, wasn't He? Jesus left Heaven to come to earth so that He could save people from their sins. His birth was only the beginning of many special things that would happen throughout His life on earth. After all, He is the Son of God!

When Jesus was still a baby – only 40 days old – Joseph and Mary left Bethlehem and took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish law said that the parents of a firstborn son had to take their baby to the Temple to dedicate (set apart) Him to God.

The Bible says that there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He loved God very much. God's Holy Spirit had told him a long time ago that, before he died, he would see the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Simeon believed God's promise and he had been waiting to see the Savior for a long time.

On the day that Jesus' parents brought Him into the Temple, God told Simeon to go to the Temple also. Simeon obeyed and as soon as he saw Jesus, he knew that this was the Son of God! He asked to hold Jesus, took the baby in his arms, and started praising God. He said, "Lord, I have seen the Savior You have given to all people." Simeon knew that Jesus is a light to lead all people to God. He gave a blessing to the family and he also told Mary some things that would happen to her son that would be hard for her to bear.

Simeon was not the only one that was excited to see Jesus. A widow name Anna was also in the Temple that day. She was an 84-year-old woman who worshipped God all the time. While Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph, Anna saw baby Jesus and began praising God. She told everyone that Jesus is the Savior that had come into the world.

Simeon and Anna received a special blessing that day. They got to see Jesus. They knew He was the Savior – the Son of God. We also know that Jesus has come into the world for us. He is always with us and helps us to live our lives for Him. We can tell others about Him, just like Anna did. Thank you, God, for sending Jesus!

### **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.)

### **4. Bible Application:**

#### **Craft: Thank-You Gift Box –**

(The craft will look sort of like the one in the picture below, but it will be made out of regular paper and will be based on the downloaded template...having praise messages from the children handwritten on the inside and outside of the flaps.)

**Say:** Jesus is God's gift. In the Bible, God's people were waiting for a Savior who would lead them. But Jesus wasn't just a gift to the people long ago, Jesus is God's gift to us today. We can thank God through our praise, our prayers, our worship, and even by showing love to others. Today, we're going to make a "thank you" craft that gives us a chance to thank God for sending Jesus to us.

Instructions:

1. Give each child a "God's Gift" handout and direct them to cut out the shape on the solid lines. Help younger children with the cutting.
2. Have them use a single hole punch to make holes on the circles. Explain that the side with the dotted lines will be inside the box.
3. Have the kids each write a note on the inside, thanking God for Jesus. Ask kids to be as specific as possible, thanking God for ways Jesus makes them feel God's love, Jesus has encouraged them, Jesus has forgiven them, Jesus loves them, etc.
4. Have the kids turn the shape over and use markers or crayons to decorate the other side of the shape. They can also use stickers.
5. Show the kids how to fold on the dotted lines so the thank-you note is on the inside of the box. Then let them slip curling ribbon through the holes and tie it to pull the points of the box together.
6. Kids (or the teacher) can then use the scissors to curl the curling ribbon. Let them know that they can keep their gift boxes where they'll see them every day as a reminder of the amazing gift God gave us through Jesus.



**5. 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.

**6. 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.