

Reality – Bible Lesson for May 3, 2020 – Preschool

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
- 5. Materials useful for teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity:** 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: Preschool** – memory verse cut into individual words; tape; large building blocks

Craft:

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>

Video you can use to reinforce the story:

Preschool video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1AS8RbJPYU>

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?

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.

You can also have them do the following song:

I can Worship God Today
(sung to the tune of "Mulberry Bush")

**I can worship God today,
With my hands, with my hands.
When I clap my hands and sing,
I worship God today.**

**I can worship God today,
With my feet, with my feet.
When I stamp my feet and sing,
I worship God today.**

**I can worship God today,
With my voice, with my voice.
When I shout "Amen" and sing,
I worship God today.**

**I can worship God today,
With my arms, with my arms.
When I wave my arms and sing,
I worship God today.**

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 and they worshiped Him! Let's learn about Simeon and Anna...

2.Bible Story: (You can tell the story below or read it from "The Beginner's Bible" – Pages 282 - 285)

Preschool Lesson:

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!

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 or pictures 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.



4. 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

Preschool: Play Building Block Verses

Write or type the Bible verse onto a sheet of paper. Cut the verse into individual words and tape each word to a large building block. (Duplo or Mega-Blocks work great!) Mix the words. Repeat the verse several times with your child. Then, challenge your child to use the building blocks to build a wall or shape, while getting the Bible verse words in the correct order.

5. 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.

