



Bonus Lesson: *Simeon and Anna* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- Simeon and Anna were waiting for the Messiah, the Forever King, whom God had promised all through Israel's history. The Holy Spirit led them to meet Jesus and his family in the temple and confirmed to them that Jesus was the Promised One they had been waiting for.
- Simeon proclaimed Jesus as God's light and salvation for all the nations. He foretold Jesus' suffering and death, and Anna praised God and told many others the good news that the Messiah had been born.

"I Wonder": What do you see in this picture? (Old man and woman, baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph holding turtle doves etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who the old man and the old woman are who are holding baby Jesus.

I wonder where Mary and Joseph are and why they are holding a cage with turtle doves.

I wonder why the old man is thinking about a cross. Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary: In our story today, Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses they also offered a sacrifice of two turtledoves or pigeons. In the temple, they met a man called Simeon and a woman called Anna. Simeon was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah, the Forever King. The Spirit led him into the temple courtyard just as Jesus' parents brought the child in. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Lord, now let me, your servant, go in peace. This is what you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the sight of all nations...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." Simeon also told Mary that hard things would happen to Jesus, and that this would be hard for her too. He was foretelling Jesus' rejection, suffering and death on the cross. There was also a prophet named Anna. Anna was very old, and she worshiped and prayed day and night in the temple. Anna came up to Jesus' family in the temple and gave great thanks to God. Then she also shared with others that she had seen the Promised One they had all been waiting for. The people of Israel had been waiting for their Forever King to be born ever since God's big promise to Abraham. God had repeated this promise many times through Israel's history, and now he had arrived! Simeon and Anna believed God's promises, and they rejoiced that they were able to see Jesus with their own eyes!

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about God? (God keeps his promises. God kept his big promise of the Forever King.)

- Why did Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the temple? (To present him to the Lord and offer a sacrifice according to the Law of Moses)
- Who did they meet at the temple? (A man called Simeon and a woman called Anna)
- What had Simeon and Anna been waiting for all their lives, and what had the people of Israel been waiting for throughout their history? (The Messiah, the Forever King who God had promised would one day come to rescue them)
- What did the Holy Spirit tell Simeon? (That he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.)
- What was Simeon foretelling when he spoke to Mary? (That Jesus would suffer and die, and this would be hard for Mary also.)
- What did Anna do after she had met Jesus? (She told others that she had seen the Promised One they had all been waiting for)
- How does this story encourage us to share about Jesus? (Like Simeon and Anna, we can praise God for sending Jesus as a light and salvation for all nations and we can tell others about him. Christmas time is a very easy time to begin this sharing with others.)

Bible Memory Verse:

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations." (Luke 2: 30-31 - ESV)