

Preschool Winter
Lesson 6:
Simeon and Anna Praise God for Jesus

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Recognize the importance of Jesus' birth and that He is the greatest gift ever given **Luke 2:22-38**
- 2) Do activities to reinforce the idea that Jesus is the Son of God and God is worthy to be praised because of Jesus!
- 3) See the need to worship Jesus today at church services and praise God just like Simeon and Anna did

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Charts –from previous class – one per student
- Simeon and Anna Activity Sheets – printed back to back or taped back to back – one set of activity sheets per student
- Simeon and Anna Stickers – one set per student, 3 sets on a page – cut out before class for activity
- Glue sticks to share
- Scissors – to cut out stickers before class
- Jesus Goes to the Temple with His Family Maze – one per student

Depending on time choose some optional activities to do and gather supplies

- Jesus' Family goes to the Temple Color Page – one per student
- Stick Puppet People – one template page per student cut out before class
- Popsicle Sticks – 5 per student taped onto back of each puppet person
- Tape and Scissors – to cut and tape sticks to puppet people before or during class
- Bibles – one per child
- Snack – Your choice – enough for each student along with glass of water and napkin

1) Introduction to lesson:

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance charts from previous class). Let each child color a star in their attendance chart for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on a chart for them and let them color in a star.

Tell them, **“Last week we talked about some special men who were wise. They saw something in the sky that lead them to little Jesus – Can someone raise their hand and tell us what was in the sky that the wise men followed to find Jesus? Let student answer.**

That's right _____(insert name of child) the wise men followed the special star to little Jesus. Does anyone remember what the wise men brought with them when they found little Jesus with his parents? Raise your hand if you know.... Let student answer.

That's right _____(insert name of child) the wise men brought gifts for little Jesus. When the wise men were done, they worshipped God!

Today we are going to talk about worship as we continue learning about little Jesus. When we worship God and Jesus, we tell or show them how wonderful we know they are. We sing, we pray, we listen to the Bible and we give when we worship at Sunday worship. That makes God and Jesus

happy. Today we will read of two people who knew it was very important to worship God and His Son Jesus! When they met little Jesus they were so happy that they praised God because they knew how special Jesus is!

Let's all say: "Thank you God for Jesus Your Son" (Help students repeat)

Let's sing some songs to get us started!

If My Name is.....

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.

I stand alone on the Word of God,

The B-I-B-L-E.

Chorus

Oh the Bible will never fail, never fail, never fail.

The Bible will never fail – no, no, no!

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.

I read and pray, trust and obey,

The B-I-B-L-E.

(Chorus)

Hand out one Bible to each child. Say to students. **The Bible is VERY special. Do you know why? Because it is God's! God made the Bible for us and the Bible has all of God's Words in it for us to obey. Isn't that wonderful? God made the Bible for each and every one of us! God loves us very much and wanted each one of us to have a Bible to read, to use and to study His wonderful words. Today we are going to continue to learn from the Bible about how special Jesus is!**

Let's all say "Thank you God for Jesus!" Have students say it together. **Good job!**

Who can raise their hand quietly and tell me what they remember about Jesus being born?

_____ (insert child's name) **is sitting quietly and has raised his/her hand – what do you remember about Jesus' birth?** Let student respond. Help if needed with the following prompts:

Remember we talked about Mary and Joseph who heard from an angel that Mary was going to have a son – the Son of God and that they were to name him Jesus? Remember that Jesus was born in an unusual place? Where was he born? Where was his bed? Who came to see him after angels told them about his birth? Were the shepherds happy to see Jesus? Who came to visit him afterwards? What did they bring for little Jesus? How did they find Jesus?

Good job everyone for trying to remember what we have learned so far about Jesus!

2) Optional: Stick People Craft (To use as hand-holding visuals)

10-15 minutes

***Before class:** Cut out one set of stick people per student – there are 5.

Gather Popsicle sticks, tape.

During class: Say: **Today we are going to talk about two special people that were excited to see little Jesus because they knew He was God's Son sent to save the world. To help us as we learn about the story we are going to make stick people. There are five stick people we are going to color. The first one is Joseph – can someone raise their hand and tell me who Joseph is?** Let students

answer – **Jesus' earthly dad who obeyed God and raised Jesus.** Let students color Joseph, then take



some tape and tape a craft stick half way at the bottom so that students can hold the stick person with their hands while you read the Bible account of Simeon and Anna below.

Continue handing out people one at a time for students to color, asking them who Mary and little Jesus are...give the names of Simeon and Anna and tell them we will learn about these wonderful people in a moment.

Help students finish craft and encourage them to clean up before moving on to the story of Simeon and Anna.

Thank those students who choose to help and praise them for helping to encourage other students to want to help as well. Sing the following while you clean up.

Clean Up Song

Clean up, clean up
Everybody everywhere!
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share!
Repeat

A Helper I Will Be!

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

A helper I will be, a helper I will be.
There's work to do, there's work to do
In my family.

I love to help my mom; I love to help my dad.
I love to help; it makes God glad.
A helper I will be.

3) Simeon and Anna Bible Account

10 minutes

Let's all sit quietly and listen while I read from the Bible about Simeon and Anna who when they saw little Jesus thanked and worshiped God. Remember to hold your stick people Simeon and Anna and when you hear the word "Anna" hold up your Anna person, when you hear "Simeon" hold up your Simeon person as well!

The Bible says in Luke 2:22-38 that after the wise men came to see Jesus, Joseph and Mary (ask assistant to hold up Joseph and Mary and Jesus people if you made some) took Jesus (have assistant hold up baby Jesus) to the temple to say thank you to God by bringing doves or pigeons. Now there was a very good man who followed God named Simeon (have assistant and students hold up Simeon). God told him that he would see baby Jesus (hold up Jesus). - God's Son. When Simeon (hold up Simeon) saw baby Jesus (hold up Jesus), he praised and thanked God because he was so happy to see Jesus (hold up Jesus).

After Simeon thanked God, (hold up Simeon) Anna (hold up Anna) a prophet saw little Jesus (hold up Jesus). When Anna (hold up Anna) saw Jesus (hold up Jesus) she thanked God as well! Simeon and Anna (hold up Simeon and Anna) knew how special Jesus is - we know how special he is too because we read it in the Bible - God's wonderful Word!

I am going to ask you some questions now, listen carefully and see if you can raise your hand and answer them:

Who were the two people that thanked God for little Jesus? Simeon and Anna (hold up Simeon and Anna)

They worshipped God and thanked Him.

How do we worship Jesus today? We sing to Him, we pray to Him, we read the Bible and we give at church to help those in need.

These are some of the ways we worship Jesus every Sunday at church services!

Does that make God and Jesus happy? Yes it does!

Good job everyone. Thank you for sitting quietly and listening carefully.

4) Action Rhyme and Songs

5 minutes

Let's do some action rhymes about the Bible!

Action Rhyme - Here is the Bible

Here is the Bible (hold hands out with palms together like a book)

Let's open it wide (hold hands like an open book)

God speaks to us (point upward)

On the pages inside (hold hands like an open book)

Action Play - The Bible Says

The Bible says, "Pray" I will obey.

(Fold hands and bow head)

The Bible says, "Listen" I will obey.

(Cup hand to ear)

The Bible says, "Give" I will obey.

(Pretend to drop money in basket)

The Bible says, "Go to church" I will obey.

(Walk fingers along arm or step feet up and down)

The Bible says, "Sing" I will obey.

Big Enough Song

Tune: London Bridge

I am glad I'm big enough,

Big enough, big enough,

Big enough to come to church; just like Jesus!

Baby Jesus Action Rhyme

A stable, (Make house with hands)

A manger, (Make box with hands)

A baby, (Cradle a "baby")

With animals all around. (Arms stretched out)

The baby is sleeping. (Fold hands against cheek)

Let's tiptoe, (walk or use fingers to tip toe)

And not make even a sound. (Sh-h-h!)

Jesus Grows Up Action Rhyme

Jesus was a Little Baby

(Hold arms as if rocking a baby)

Just like me.

(Point to self)

First he was so very small.

(Squat on floor)

Then he grew to be so tall.

(Stand on tiptoes)

Very small, oh so tall

(Squat then stand)

Just like me.

(Point to self)

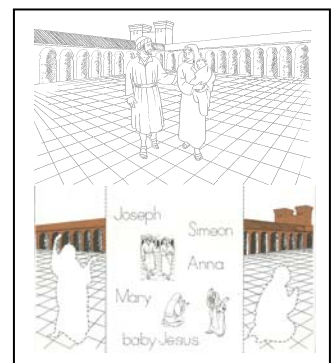
5) Simeon and Anna Activity Sheet with Stickers

10-15 minutes

Before Class:

Cut out one set of Anna and Simeon stickers per student and print one activity sheet per student - this activity sheet needs to be printed back to back as there are two pages that need to be folded. If you don't have a printing feature that allows for this to be printed back to back, just print them both and then tape the two pages back to back with tape.

Each student will need one of each sticker of Anna and Simeon and there are 3 sets on the sticker page with one set needed per student.



During Class:

Hand out the two sheets printed back to back and ask the students what they see on the front page – (Mary, Joseph and little Jesus) picture and talk about what they see in the picture. (Jesus' family is at the temple)

Hand out crayons and ask them to color the page

Next, hand out the stickers and ask students to point to the correct spot where Anna and Simeon should go on the back page. Help students to glue the stickers to the page and then ask them to color Simeon and Anna.

Next, fold the second sheet where indicated so that when they turn the page to the front, it shows Simeon and Anna praising God as they see little Jesus!

Help older students who are learning to read and write to draw a line from the people to the pictures in the middle of the page and read each of the words for them. Let younger students color the little people figures in the middle of the page while older students draw lines and trace the letters if time.

While they color remind them that: **Simeon and Anna praised and thanked God when they saw little Jesus. We pray and thank God every Sunday when we come to worship services to show our love for God and for His Son Jesus! We are like Simeon and Anna if we give thanks to God for Jesus!**

Let's all say, "Thank you God for Jesus!" Have students repeat. Ask them to help clean up before moving onto the next activity.

6) Jesus' Family Goes to the Temple Maze

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student and show them where to start on the page and ask them to help Mary, Joseph and Jesus get to the temple at the top of the page. Help as needed and ask questions about what they learned today while they make their way through the maze. If time and if they desire, let them color the page.



7) Optional: Pretend with Stick People

10-15 minutes

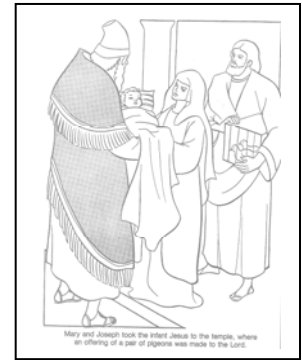
Allow students to play with their stick people (if you made these during the introduction part of the lesson. If not and you want to make them now, see point 2 above for how to make the stick people with the students).

While they play, talk about the story and what they learned about Simeon and Anna and what they learned about praising and thanking God because of Jesus. Remind students that Mary and Joseph and little Jesus were going to the temple to obey God – just like we go to church services today to obey God. Simeon and Anna were very happy to see Jesus and we should be very happy each Sunday when we get to spend time with Jesus and our church family in worship.

8) Optional: Jesus' Family goes to the Temple Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out sheet to each student. Ask students to color and hand out crayons. Write students names somewhere on the page. Discuss questions and talk about the importance of worship and obeying God as Joseph and Mary did when they brought two doves or pigeons as a way to thank God for their little son Jesus.



9) Optional: Snack - Your Choice

5-10 minutes

Before class prepare snack of your choice

“You’ve all done a great job this morning learning about Simeon and Anna from the Bible and how they thanked God for Jesus. To help us remember, we are going to talk about ways we can thank God as we enjoy our snack.” Hand out a snack to each child and glass of water to each child. Ask: **What are some things we can thank God for today?** Let students respond. Help them if needed to come up with ideas.

How can we thank God for all He does and has done for us? Let students respond – ideas might include praying to God, coming to church, being nice to others as God commands, giving, singing and listening during services and during the week when our families pray or read the Bible at home....

Talk about how we obey the Bible – by going to church services on Sunday, listening to our moms and dads, praying, giving, singing, listening, and reading the Bible.

Discuss that obeying the Bible makes God happy and by obeying we are saying thank you God for what He has done for us.

Talk about who we learned about today.

After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

10) Sing

5-10 minutes

Have children sing songs with you, you can sing from the Song Sheet provided.

11) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God’s Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray: **Thank You God that You created the world and gave us the Bible. Thank you God that we can know what You want us to do by reading Your special Words – the Bible. Help us to remember to make You and Jesus happy by coming to worship Him every Sunday. Thank you God for sending Your Son Jesus. Thank you for the evangelists and teachers that share the good news of Jesus’ and his life. Thank You God for everyone here today and for those that couldn’t be. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**