

Simeon And Anna

Luke 2:25-38

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 2:26

“And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A personal object that holds value to you and a cloth large enough to cover it completely.

As many small slips of paper and pencils as the number of children in your class.

A half sheet of paper and two straws for each child in your class and some glue or staples. (For younger students you may want to pre-print their scripture memorization verse on the half sheet).

A bowl with Bible promises written on small slips of paper. (For younger students you may want to use pictures that represent Bible promises).

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Treasure of Expectation

Pre-set in your classroom a personal object that has great value to you. Cover it with a cloth large enough to hide it completely.

Explain to the class that there is something significant under the cloth. Tell them that before the end of class they will get to see with their own eyes what is under the cloth.

Proceed with your study.

LESSON TIME!

Today we will learn that **God's promises always come true**. According to the Law of Moses, Jesus had to be circumcised eight days after He was born (Leviticus 12:3). It was also the custom to present a first-born child to God thirty-three days later. The parents of the child would take an offering to the Lord for the purification of the mother (Exodus 13:2 and Leviticus 12:1-8). Bethlehem was only about 8 miles from Jerusalem, so Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple to present Jesus to the Lord.

LUKE 2:25

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Now this man Simeon was constantly seeking the Lord and waiting for the promise of God's deliverer, the Messiah, to come true. Simeon knew that **God's promises always come true**. Simeon was a righteous man; he kept the commandments of the Lord. He was devout, which means that he was sincere in his faith.

The Bible also tells us that he was "looking for the Consolation of Israel." Does that mean he was looking for a bunch of stars? No, the Consolation of Israel is the Great Comforter, promised of God, to come and save mankind from sin and death. The consolation of Israel was the promise that the messiah would be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, suffer, die for the atonement of sin, be buried and rise from the dead to freely give everlasting life to anyone who would believe and trust in Him. It was the promise of Jesus.

The Bible also tells us that “the Holy Spirit was upon him.” Often in the Bible you will see where the Holy Spirit will come “upon” someone to give them the power to accomplish God’s purpose for their life. When a believer is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit, his life will show forth good fruit.

- 1) Christ-likeness (Galatians 5:16).
- 2) Worship and Praise (Ephesians 5:18-20).
- 3) Submission to the Lord (Ephesians 5:21).
- 4) Servanthood (John 7:37-39).
- 5) Power to do what God has called us to do (Acts 1:8).

A Promise to Pray

Hand out a pre-cut piece of paper to each child. Have each child write a prayer request on his slip of paper and then fold it in half.

Have each child exchange his paper with a friend in the class (if you have an odd number of children, exchange your own prayer request with the left over child). Be sensitive to shy children or children that don't really know anyone in the class.

Instruct each child to take the note home and pray for that request for his friend for the entire week just as Simeon sought the Lord for his request.

LUKE 2:26

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

The Lord promised Simeon that he would not see death until he saw the Messiah. What an amazing promise this was from God. Simeon believed God because **God's promises always come true**. Can anyone think of some other promises God has made to us (allow the children to respond)?

JOHN 14:2-3

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

God has promised each of His children that He will return for us. He gave us His Holy Spirit as a seal, like an engagement or promise ring, because we are the bride of Christ.

How do you think Simeon knew that the Messiah would come? The Bible says:

HEBREWS 1:1,2

God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds..."

God's word, the Holy Scripture, revealed that the Messiah would come. God told his prophets about the messiah and they wrote it down in the scriptures. Did you know that the Lord speaks to us today through His book, the Bible? In the past God spoke to His people through men called prophets, but whether through the prophets or the Holy Bible, **God's promises always come true**.

The word “Bible” means “roll” or “book.” It is God's message to man, the gospel of salvation. The Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), and written over a period of 1500 years by 40 different authors, and yet the thread of continuity reflects one author, the Lord God.

Let's Make a Scroll

Pass out one half sheet of paper for each child in your class.

Have the children write out one of the promises of God found in the Bible, both scripture and verse (for younger children, you may want to pre-print their Bible memory verse).

Paste a straw to the top and bottom of the sheets of paper.

Roll the straws toward the center of the page so that each page resembles a scroll.

Have some of the children read their scrolls out loud to the class.

LUKE 2:27

So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

Simeon obeyed the Lord and entered the temple. It was at this time that God was going to make His promise to Simeon come true, because **God's promises always come true**. This was the moment Simeon had been waiting for. Simeon had waited for God's promise to come true for a very long time. Have you ever waited a long time for a promise to come true? (Give the children an opportunity to share some of their experiences.)

Well, this is what it was like for Simeon; he was eagerly waiting for God's gift, His Son, Jesus. Simeon's faith was strengthened while he waited for God's promise to come true, because he knew that **God's promises always come true.**

Just as Simeon entered the temple, Mary and Joseph arrived to present Jesus to the Lord. It is very similar to when we dedicate babies in church. The parents are making a commitment to God to raise their child according to God's standard.

LUKE 2:28-32

he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

For my eyes have seen Your salvation

Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

It's so exciting to hold a new baby! Have you ever held a baby before? Imagine what it must have been like for Simeon; he was holding the creator of the universe in his arms. Maybe he thought of Psalm 8:

PSALM 8

O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

All sheep and oxen; Even the beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

God actually thinks about us, and loves us, not because of who we are, but because He is the great “I Am, that I Am.” He is always present; He always was and always will be. It is His nature to love us and have a relationship with us through His Son Jesus.

Simeon gave glory to God, because of this wonderful promise that had come true. He knew that **God’s promises always come true**. Simeon was God's servant, and now he was satisfied to die and go to heaven to be with the Lord, because God had fulfilled His promise. Simeon knew God and he was certain of his eternity.

He was going to be with the Lord forever. Do you have certainty about where you will go when you die? (This might be a good opportunity to share the gospel again. If any children wish to respond, be sure to give them an opportunity to receive Christ).

Simeon was looking right into the eyes of baby Jesus, when he declared, "My eyes have seen your salvation." It was as if Simeon knew about the nails that would someday pierce those little hands and feet. He even declared that this deliverer would bring salvation to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

LUKE 2:33-35

And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

"(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

When Joseph and Mary heard the praises coming from Simeon, they marveled. They were amazed at what Simeon was saying. They knew that their baby was the promised Messiah, but they probably didn't understand that He was the Savior of all mankind. His ministry would be much greater than they had the capacity to realize.

Simeon blessed them and even prophesied about Jesus' future. The nation of Israel had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah. Some would want to follow Him and Simeon talked about the "rise" of them. Some would not and Simeon referred to their "fall."

Simeon also said that a sword would pierce Mary's heart also. He was probably prophesying the pain Mary would experience as she witnessed this baby of her womb suffer for the sin of all humanity on the cross.

LUKE 2:36-38

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Anna was an 84 year old widow, which means that she had been married, but her husband had died. She then lived the rest of her life for God; she must have loved the Lord a great deal. She never left the temple and always worshipped God.

When she noticed the baby, Jesus, she also knew that He was the promised Messiah. She knew what God had promised through His prophets and His word, too, and she knew that **God's promises always come true.**

Standing on the Promises

Pass a bowl or box of scripture promises around the room. (For younger children you can prepare a promise picture).

Have each child read his scripture to the class.

Explain to the class that God will keep each and every promise he makes because **God's promises always come true.**

After Anna saw the promise of God in this little baby, she did exactly what the shepherds did, when they found Jesus. Can anyone tell what the shepherds did after they found Jesus? Yes, they spread the word; "The Messiah has come."

When God's promises come true, we need to do what Simeon and Anna did, give thanks to God, worship and praise Him, and then tell others about what He has done. We need to trust the Lord because **God's promises always come true.**

Treasure of Expectation

Remind the children that you have something under the cloth to show them. Ask the children if any of them had a hard time waiting. Go ahead and show them what is under the cloth.

Explain to the class that sometimes there are promises that God makes that we have to wait for. Simeon waited a long time to receive his promise, but he always knew that **God's promises always come true.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.