

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



A SPECIAL DAY FOR SIMEON AND ANNA

Luke 2:25-38 Simeon sees Jesus

When Jesus was born, there was much celebration. Mary and Joseph went to the Temple to say thank you to God for the precious gift of their son. What they didn't realise was that there were two people waiting at the Temple desperate to meet Jesus. Simeon and Anna had waited for their special day to arrive for so long, and now it was here. In today's session, we join Simeon and Anna and give thanks for the gift of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Each child will need:

- A clean jam jar with a lid, pens/pencils, a sticky label or paper to make a label and sticky-backed plastic to fix it to the jar, craft resources or colourful stickers to decorate and small slips of paper – see Action It section
- Thank you prayer sheet

Start It

- **Say:** At Christmas time lots of people gather to play games or try out a family quiz. To get your brains working today, we're going to have a go at the Beano Christmas Quiz.
www.beano.com/posts/the-ultimate-christmas-trivia-quiz

There are 30 questions, so you may like the group to work as a team to get as many right as they can.

Sing It

- **Say:** In this session we are saying a big thank you to God for all the blessings we have in our lives. Today's song should get you thinking about all the things you can thank God for.

'I want to say thank you' by Orange Kids Music (3 mins 16 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zs4A9UfT0Q

Tell It

- **Say:** For many years God had promised his people that he would send a Messiah to save them. Way back in the book of Isaiah God promised that a baby boy would be born to save the people.

Ask: Can you remember where in the Bible this promise was made?

- **Say:** We read about the promise of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. We have been learning this verse for the past month, so let's see if we can share it together.

**'For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**

— (Isaiah 9:6 *NIV*)

🗨️ **Say:** In our Bible story this week, we discover more about two people who had waited a really long time to meet Jesus, their Messiah.

Video

God's Story: Anna and Simeon by Crossroads Kids' Club (3 mins 56 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrjbo

Discuss:

- ➔ What did the Holy Spirit tell Simeon?
- ➔ How do you think Simeon felt when he discovered he was going to meet Jesus?
- ➔ Why was this such a big deal?
- ➔ Simeon couldn't find out from the internet that Jesus had been born! So who told him?
- ➔ Where did Simeon go to meet Jesus?
- ➔ How do you think he felt when he saw Mary and Joseph arrive with Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** Simeon was so excited to meet Jesus and was grateful to God for answering his prayer. He said:

**'Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant,
die in peace as you said.
I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes.
You prepared him before all people.
He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see.
He will bring honour to your people, the Israelites.'**

— (Luke 2:29-32 *ICB*)

Ask:

- ➔ Why do you think Simeon described Jesus as a light?
- ➔ Where have you heard Jesus described like this before?

🗨️ **Say:** Anna stayed at the Temple worshipping God and loved him with all her heart.

Ask: What did Anna do when she met Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** Simeon and Anna were both filled with joy when they met Jesus. They realised they had so much to be thankful for.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Think about everything that has happened over the past month. You may have had Christmas parties at school, or celebrations with friends and family. You may have even been privileged to receive some gifts this Christmas.

Ask: As you think of all these things, what are you thankful for?

🗨️ **Say:** Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to say thank you for their precious baby boy. Simeon and Anna waited in the Temple to see Jesus. Imagine how thankful they were when God answered their prayer.

Ask:

- ➔ Are you good at remembering to say thank you?
- ➔ How about saying thank you to God?

Thank you jar

● **Say:** Today we are going to create a thank you jar for you to use throughout 2023. Each time you have something to be thankful for, you can write it on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. At the end of the year you will be able to see how faithful God has been throughout 2023.

Ask the children to make a label to stick on the jar saying '(their name's) Thank You Jar 2023'. They could use a sticky label or sticky-backed plastic to fix their label to the jar. Provide the children with craft resources or colourful stickers to decorate their jar.

When the children have finished decorating their jar they could write some 'thank you's' on small slips of paper to pop into their jar.

● **Say:** We have so much to thank our Heavenly Father for. Let's make an effort during 2023 to remember to say thank you to God for all his blessings.

Pray It

● **Say:** Today we have spent time giving thanks for the gift of Jesus, the Light of the World. We are going to bring our time together with a special prayer based around the words 'thank you'.

Give each child a copy of the 'thank you' prayer. Children may wish to colour in the first letter of each line, to highlight the words 'thank you'.

Read:

This Christmas we thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

Help us to share his message with the people we meet.

At home, school, or church, help us to remember to give thanks to you.

Never let us forget the precious gift you gave to each one of us.

Knowing how much you love us, let us show that love to others.

You are a faithful, loving God.

Our Explore It group will always remember to sing your praises.

Uncertainty is all around us, Lord, but we know that we are safe with you.

Amen.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

ADVENT
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SESSION 05

A SPECIAL DAY FOR SIMEON AND ANNA

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FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

In today's session you were given a copy of a prayer based around the words 'Thank you'. Choose your own word linked to Jesus and see if you can write your own acrostic prayer.



Share

Show the people at home your 'Thank You' jar.

Is this something that you could do as a family? If the answer is yes, then start writing your 'thank you's' to God and fill up the jar throughout 2023.



Song for the week

'I want to say thank you' by Orange Kids Music (3 mins 16 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zs4A9Uft0Q



Memory verse

'For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

— (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

