

Seeing Salvation

**Verse:**

Luke 2:25-38

Simeon and Anna see Jesus

**Aim:**

To prepare to listen to the Holy Spirit in your life



Simeon and Anna had spent their entire lives serving God and worshipping him in the Temple.

Even though they were very old, they knew that God would keep his promise and send a saviour to earth. They were not disappointed, and in today's session we discover more about their story.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Paper and pencils
- Materials to make a windmill (instructions provided)
- Materials to make the final Advent candle or electric tea lights



Start it

Say:

We have spent the past five weeks learning all about the Christmas story. Let's see how much you can remember.

The children can work either individually or in pairs to take part in this 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' styled quiz. Give each individual/pair a sheet of paper and discover who can earn the most points in the quiz. The point scoring system is quite unusual, so you may just want to reward the team with the most correct answers. You may want to provide a prize for the winners.

Video

Christmas Story Bible Trivia Game for Kids by Children's Ministry Deals (6:41)

Sing it

Say:

Our song for today brings together all the themes of Advent. It reminds us that, through the birth of Jesus, we are filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Video

'I've Got the Joy' with Lyrics Christmas Song by Christmas Songs and Carols (2:59)

Tell it

Say:

Our Bible story today is all about an elderly man and woman who had patiently waited all their lives to meet Jesus. We can find their story in the book of Luke.

The law of the day meant that Mary and Joseph had to take Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem for a small ceremony to thank God for him. This was Simeon and Anna's moment. They would finally meet Jesus.

Read:

'A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man and very religious. He was waiting for the time when God would help Israel. The Holy Spirit was in him. The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord. The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do. Then Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God: "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said. I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes."'

(Luke 2:25-30 ICB)

Ask:

Think back to our earlier session all about the Holy Spirit.

- What does the Bible mean when it says of Simeon, 'The Holy Spirit was in him'?
- How did the Holy Spirit guide Simeon?
- What kinds of things does the Holy Spirit do in our lives?

Say:

Simeon held Jesus in his arms. He believed that Jesus was the saviour the world had been waiting for and said to God, 'I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes.'

Ask:

- What do you think Simeon meant?
- What does salvation mean?

Say:

We are The Salvation Army, so it is important as Christians and members of this church that we understand what our name means. Simeon knew that he had met the Saviour of the world. The name Jesus also means 'salvation'. The Christmas story is so much more than a Nativity scene; it is a message of salvation for the world.

Simeon wasn't the only one to meet Jesus in the Temple ...

Read:

'Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. She had once been married for seven years. Then her husband died and she lived alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna never left the Temple. She worshipped God by going without food and praying day and night. She was standing there at that time, thanking God. She talked about Jesus to all who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

(Luke 2:36-38 ICB)

Ask:

What did Anna do once she had met Jesus?

Say:

Today we have discovered what it means to know Jesus and, because of the way his Holy Spirit nudges us, some of you may have thought about this for the first time. Just like Anna, we need to give thanks for him and share who he is with others. Like our song said, knowing Jesus can bring you real joy.

Action it

The aim of this activity is to create a windmill to remind the children how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives. A link is provided below for instructions to make a windmill. You can adapt this according to the resources you have available. Ask the children to think about ways they would like the Holy Spirit to guide them in the New Year. They can write their ideas on their windmill.

www.ministry-to-children.com/spirit-pinwheel-craft

Say:

Simeon carried the Holy Spirit within him. He was guided to meet Jesus because he listened to the Holy Spirit as he moved in Simeon's heart. We don't always know exactly how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, but he is always working in the hearts of those who follow Jesus.

Our Action It activity today reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit blowing through our lives, moving us forward.

Pray it

The final activity will depend on the kind of Advent wreath you decided to make with the children. The children will need to make their final Advent candle for the centre of their wreath representing 'Christ'. Alternatively, you could purchase electric tea lights to give to each child. They can then use these in the prayer activity and take them home to either place it in the centre of or next to their wreaths.

Recap the four weeks of Advent and their key themes.

Say:

The final central candle of the Advent wreath is usually lit on Christmas Day. It represents the message contained in our memory verse.

Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 *ICB*)

Say:

On Christmas Day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ – a birth that brings joy, peace, hope and love to the world.

Video

Watch the clip together and then bring the session to a close in prayer.

'Light of the World' by Lauren Daigle (with lyrics) (4:08)

Explore it

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



'Explore It!' is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Seeing Salvation

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Verse:
Luke 2:25-38
Simeon and Anna see Jesus



Aim:
To prepare to listen to the Holy Spirit in your life



Tell

Anna took every opportunity to tell others about Jesus. This week, be brave and talk to your friends about your faith in Jesus.



Share

Add the final candle to your wreath and then watch the following clip with your loved ones at home. The clip tells a fictional story of the little drummer boy which, although it is only a story and not in the Bible, reminds us that we can all worship God in our own way this Christmas.

Advent for Kids: LOVE (Week 5) - 5 Minute Family Devotional/Kids Bible Story (5:13)
by Minno Bible Stories for Kids



Song for the week

'I've Got the Joy' with Lyrics Christmas Song by Christmas Songs and Carols (2:59)



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 /CB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic - filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth