

The Gospel of Luke / Lesson 6

Simeon And Anna

Luke 2:25-38

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

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.”

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Treasure of Expectation: This is an activity that you will start now and reveal at the end of the lesson

Pre-set in your classroom a personal object that has great value to you [be creative]. 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!

Lesson Goal: God’s promises always come true

Introduction:

This Lesson has 2 stories:

A] Simeon seeing baby Jesus at the temple

B] Anna the prophetess Bears Witness to the Redeemer

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

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.

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. 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,

At the time of Ptolemy, the 2ndst who was the brother of Ptolemy the 1st the ruler of Jerusalem; that he wanted to have the bible translated from Hebrew to Greek; so, he instituted the translation known as the Septuagint. That was around 250 years before Christ was born.

So, Simon was translating a part in the bible from **Isaiah 7:14** **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”**

Simeon was a translator; But Simeon was afraid that he might translate that wrong; He wanted to write the word Woman instead of the virgin.

This was a prophecy; It was truly a virgin St. Mary who would give birth to Jesus our God and Savior, it was not a mistake; therefore, the Holy spirit informed him that he will not die till he sees with his own eyes that baby Jesus and his virgin mother St. Mary.

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 devout man, which means that he was sincere in his faith.

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 almost 300 years. Have you ever waited a long time for a promise to come true? (Give the children an opportunity to share some of their experiences.)

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 St. Mary and St. Joseph brought baby Jesus to present at the temple and to give the offering to the Lord for the purification.

Luke 2:28-32

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

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

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 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.

Simeon gave glory to God for allowing him to see the promised Messiah. He knew that **God's promises always come true**.

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 [Other people other than the Jews] as well as the Jews.

Luke 2:33-35

33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 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 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

When St. Joseph and St. Mary heard the praises coming from Simeon, they marveled. They were amazed at what Simeon was saying. They knew that baby Jesus was the promised Messiah/ Christ,

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 St. Mary's heart. He was probably prophesying of the pain St. Mary would experience as she witnessed her baby suffer for the sin of all humanity on the cross.

Our Coptic church makes sure that we remember this amazing story as we pray the Agpeya; the 12 hour and put that Gospel reading for us to praise God and to know that **God's promises always come true.**

2nd Story: Anna Bears Witness to the Redeemer

Luke 2:36-38

36 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; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. 38 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 baby Jesus, she also knew that He was the promised Messiah. She also knew what God had promised through His prophets and His word. She knew that **God's promises always come true.**

[Activity] Standing on the Promises

Pass a bowl or box of scripture promises around the room. (For younger children you can prepare a promise picture or write the verses on pieces of papers for the kids to read).

Have each child read his scripture/Verse/promise to the class.

After reading

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?** They spread the word; “The Messiah has come.”

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 did not lose hope because he knew that **God’s promises always come true.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s promises. For saving the world and for loving us.

Email to parents:

Dear Parents:

In the lesson this week, we learned about Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25- 38). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. God had made a very special promise to Simeon. The Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die until he beheld the Messiah: Jesus Christ. Then one day in the temple, he got to see and hold the Messiah, Jesus. Simeon learned that God’s promises always come true. God’s promises are true for us, too. The Bible says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will never change. We can trust Him . He is always true to His Word!

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God’s Word together.

Activities to print and share:

<https://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR169.PDF>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KORWn0yHRs>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mrhyc-Fbu_Y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1AS8RbJPYU>