

Lesson 5 – Baby Jesus Presented at the Temple

- Teacher Prep: Despite the presence of the Wise Men in every Nativity ever made, the Biblical reality is that quite a bit of time passed before the Wise Men arrived to worship the Christ Child. One of the things that happened during this time period was the presentation of the Baby Jesus at the Temple. Mary and Joseph went to the Temple in Jerusalem about 6 weeks after Jesus was born to present an offering as was required by the Law of God after the birth of any child. While they were there, Simeon and Anna the Prophetess both recognize Baby Jesus as the Promised Messiah!
- Major Points: **Baby Jesus is Born**
Baby Jesus is Presented in the Temple
Simeon Recognizes Him
Anna the Prophetess Recognizes Him
- Scripture Ref: **Luke 2:21-38** The Story of Jesus' Presentation at the Temple
Luke 2:30 *For my eyes have seen Your salvation...*
Leviticus 12 – Law referring to a required sacrifice after a birth
- Add. Reading: <https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/a-matter-of-time/>
- Lesson: **Baby Jesus is Born**
- Christmas was here! Did you enjoy it? (*Wait for answers.*)
 - Jesus the Savior (the Messiah or Christ) was born and that is why we celebrate Christmas.
 - Jesus is the Son of God!
 - He is Mary's son as well, so He is also called the Son of Man
 - He was born in Bethlehem and His mother laid Him in a manger because there was no room in the inn.
 - And the Angels announced His birth and the shepherds came to worship Him.
 - So many exciting things happened!
 - And then... what happened next? (*Wait for answers... You are going to hear about the Wise Men coming to visit.*)
 - That's right! The Wise Men **did** come to find Jesus and worship Him.
 - But, we believe that there was a span of time that occurred between Jesus' birth and the Wise Men arriving.
 - Probably several months to a year or so later
 - We know that it was less than 2 years.
 - We believe this because the Bible tells us about some things that happened in Jesus' young life before the Wise Men arrived.
 - Let's take a look at some of these things...

Baby Jesus is Presented in the Temple

- According to the Law that God had given to His People the Jews, after each birth of a child a sacrifice was to be made.
 - *(See Leviticus 12 for more information)*
- **Read Luke 2:22-24**
- So, about 6 weeks after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem to the Temple to do two things:
- #1 - To present Jesus to the LORD
 - Each firstborn son was to be dedicated to the LORD
 - *(See Exodus 13:2,12 for more information)*
- #2 - To offer a sacrifice, as was required in the Law after the birth of any child (– usually for the purification of the mother.)
 - Here Mary and Joseph show how worthy they were in that they offer the sacrifice even though it wasn't necessary since Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit
 - In this case, a pair of doves or two young pigeons
 - This sacrifice indicates that Mary and Joseph were poor, otherwise, they would have sacrificed a 1-year-old lamb
- Mary and Joseph wanted to make sure that they did everything that was required by the Law of God.

Simeon Recognizes Him

- While they were there in the Temple, a godly man named Simeon came and talked to them.
- He recognized Baby Jesus as the Messiah who was to come!
 - Simeon lived in Jerusalem and had been waiting for years for the Messiah to be born
 - He was a very righteous and devout man.
- Simeon had received a special promise from God that he would not die until he had personally seen the Messiah that God had promised to send to Israel
 - Simeon was prompted by the Holy Spirit to go to the Temple on that day.
- When he saw Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus, the Holy Spirit assured him that this was the Promised Messiah he had been waiting to see.
- Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God saying:
- **Luke 2:29-32:** *“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”*
- That was kind of an amazing statement, wasn't it?
 - He said that Baby Jesus was God's Savior (the Messiah)

- He said that Baby Jesus would be a Light to the Gentiles (those were all the people who weren't Jewish)
- He said that He would be the glory of God's People-Israel
- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they heard this? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That's right! The Bible says they were **amazed** when they heard him saying all these things about Baby Jesus.
- Then Simeon spoke to Mary and Joseph.
- **Luke 2:34-35** ... *Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*
- Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and told Mary, Jesus' Mother, that the *"Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed..."*
 - This meant that Baby Jesus had in His future many wonderful things; including having people in Israel who would accept Him as the Savior, and those who wouldn't.
- He even tells Mary that *"a sword will pierce even your own soul"*
 - This foretells the piercing of Jesus' side with a sword at His Crucifixion.
 - Mary was there at that time, and saw the whole thing, which must have felt like a sword piercing her own soul.
- *"...to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed"*
- This probably means that because the Messiah came and died the thoughts in the hearts of many people would be revealed, as to whether they accepted Him as their Savior or not.

Anna the Prophetess Recognizes Him

- There was also a very elderly woman who was always in the Temple, serving day and night with fasting and praying.
- Her name was Anna and she was 84 years old.
 - She was a widow who had been married for 7 years until her husband had died and then had spent the rest of her long life in the Temple area praying.
- She was known to be a Prophetess
 - This means that God often revealed the future to her.
- In the same hour that Simeon recognized Baby Jesus as the Messiah, she also came up and began thanking God for Him.
- The Bible says that she continued to talk about Baby Jesus to all of those who were waiting for the Messiah to come.
- Anna and Simeon were two witnesses of what God had done!
- He had sent the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of God – Jesus!

Let's pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, here to be our Savior.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, here to be our Savior.
Thank you that when He came, the people who were waiting found Him.
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen!

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities that will work best with your group.

Make a Banner – *The children will work on a group project; a banner to display in class.*

Before Class: Obtain a roll of butcher paper or Kraft paper for the children to make their banner with. Provide markers, and crayons. Decide where to put your banner in your room when it is finished and how you will hang it up. Decide how long to make your banner and cut off an appropriate length. Set up a workstation where the children can work on the banner together (Put tables together or work on the floor, etc.) *To help save some time, consider some ideas of what to put on your banner. If you have certain words that you want on it, consider writing them out in block letters, which can then be colored in by your students during class. Some ideas for banners are given below. Choose from these or create your own, or combine ideas for your banner.*

During Class: Explain to the children that Simeon and Anna the Prophetess recognized Baby Jesus as the Messiah. Then they told other people about Him. Today you are all going to make a banner telling everyone else that Jesus the Messiah is born! Talk about how you will design your banner, what you will put on it, who will write the words or color them in, and what other things will you might write on the banner or how will you decorate it. After you have made some decisions as a group, get started on making your banner. Hang up your banner in your classroom when it is ready!

For my eyes have seen Your salvation...
Luke 2:30

BABY JESUS IS BORN !

The Messiah Has Come!

Jesus Christ is Born!

Praise God!

Find a Word! – Older children will be challenged to find all the words in a puzzle.

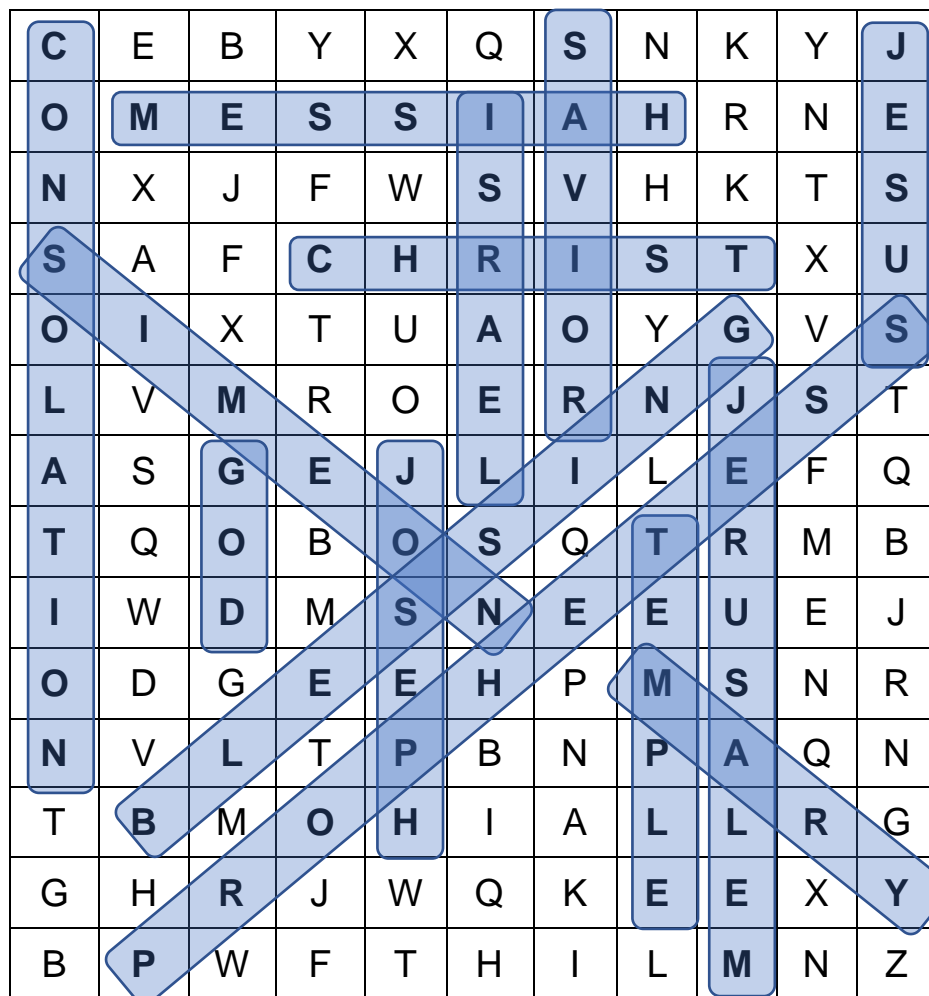
Before Class: Provide a copy of the Find-a-Word Activity Sheet for each child in class. Also provide pencils with erasers. You will also need a copy of this answer sheet!

During Class: Hand out the Activity Sheets and pencils. Invite the children to find all of the words in the puzzle. They can be up and down, across, or diagonal. All of the words to be found are provided in their word list. As they find a word in the puzzle, they may circle it on the puzzle and mark it off the word list. Check your work by the Answer Sheet provided here. *(As a hint, you could show them where the word “prophetess” is.)*

CONSOLATION
 SAVIOR
 TEMPLE
 ANNA
 JERUSALEM

MESSIAH
 ISRAEL
 JOSEPH
 PROPHETESS
 SIMEON

JESUS
 MARY
 BLESSING
 CHRIST
 GOD



Find a Word!

Find the following words in the puzzle. They can be up and down, across, or diagonal. Some letters are used in more than one word. Circle the words in the puzzle when you find them, and then mark them off the word list.

CONSOLATION
 SAVIOR
 TEMPLE
 ANNA
 JERUSALEM

MESSIAH
 ISRAEL
 JOSEPH
 PROPHETESS
 SIMEON

JESUS
 MARY
 BLESSING
 CHRIST
 GOD

C	E	B	Y	X	Q	S	N	K	Y	J
O	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	R	N	E
N	X	J	F	W	S	V	H	K	T	S
S	A	F	C	H	R	I	S	T	X	U
O	I	X	T	U	A	O	Y	G	V	S
L	V	M	R	O	E	R	N	J	S	T
A	S	G	E	J	L	I	L	E	F	Q
T	Q	O	B	O	S	Q	T	R	M	B
I	W	D	M	S	N	E	E	U	E	O
O	D	G	E	E	H	P	M	S	N	R
N	V	L	T	P	B	N	P	A	Q	N
T	B	M	O	H	I	A	L	L	R	G
G	H	R	J	W	Q	K	E	E	X	Y
B	P	W	F	T	H	I	L	M	N	Z