

As You Have Promised, Lord

Luke 2:21-38; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 50-58

Johnnie and Katie were so excited. Grandma was coming today! They watched by the window. Then the phone rang. It was Grandma. A big storm had come up. She wouldn't be able to come today. Tomorrow the storm would be over; then she would come.

Johnnie and Katie were disappointed. But they knew that Grandma would keep her promise.

Many years ago, Simeon and Anna waited and waited for the Messiah to come. They had hope! They believed He would come. But would they recognize Him?

Simeon's heart was restless. He tried to walk a little faster as he climbed the temple mount. People courteously moved out of the way for this old man with a mission.

The Holy Spirit was leading Simeon to the temple. As he walked, Simeon remembered a day long before. The Spirit had made an important promise. "You will not die before you have seen the Messiah!" Simeon thought about this



promise constantly. He would see the Messiah!

Simeon's breath grew short as he climbed, yet he smiled to himself. He didn't have much energy anymore. But that was all right; he had something better! He had hope—the hope of seeing the Messiah!

Simeon looked around as he entered the temple. Everything seemed the same as usual. The priests solemnly performed their duties. No excited crowds awaited the fantastic news; the Messiah is here!

The Message

Jesus gives us hope.

Memory Verse

“Jesus Christ . . .
by his grace
gave us eternal
encouragement and
good hope”

(2 Thessalonians 2:16, NIV).

Simeon passed a poor couple. The young mother cradled their child in her arms. They had brought the child to the temple for a special reason. He was to be consecrated to the Lord as the law required. Simeon smiled. He loved watching happy parents with their babies. It was a pleasant part of serving in the temple.

Suddenly Simeon stopped. There was something about this couple. He stopped to gaze closely on this particular baby. And all of a sudden he knew. He knew for certain!

With his face shining in anticipation, Simeon approached the couple. Beaming and nodding to the parents, he took the baby in his arms. Then he raised his eyes to heaven. The baby's mother and father watched in amazement. They noted the joyful glow on Simeon's face. They saw tears of thanksgiving trickling down his cheeks. They listened in amazement as he prayed.

“Now, Lord, as You promised, You may let Your servant die in peace. Because with my own eyes I have seen Your salvation!” Mary and Joseph smiled. This old prophet knew! He knew and understood their secret about the Messiah.

Just then an old woman, the prophetess Anna, stepped forward. This prophetess had been in the temple every day for years. She, too, had hoped to see God's promised Gift of grace. Anna joined Simeon in praising God for Baby Jesus.

Simeon and Anna were among the very first people to recognize that Jesus was the Messiah, the One all Israel hoped for. They were among the very first people to spread the news that He had come. Their Hope was here!

And that hope is ours today. JESUS GIVES US HOPE too.





S A B B A T H

SHARE With your family, go near a place to find some boats. Or look at pictures of boats. What keeps the boats from drifting away? Read your Bible lesson together to learn about another kind of anchor.

READ Read Hebrews 6:19. Where did Simeon and Anna find the Messiah?

READ Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16 together. Make a cutout of an anchor. Write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it every day.

SING Sing "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 42). Thank Jesus for being your anchor.

S U N D A Y

SHARE For worship, read together Luke 2:21-24. Ask your parents to tell you about your baby dedication.

DO This week, finish your "Jesus' Baby Book." Draw a picture of Mary and Joseph bringing Baby Jesus and two doves to the temple. Draw another picture of a priest holding Jesus and presenting Him to God. Write a title on each page.

DO Teach the memory verse to your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Luke 2:36-38. Simeon and Anna knew that Jesus is a gift of grace. This means that: (Mark the true answers.)

Jesus gives us joy. Jesus gives us forgiveness. Jesus gives us hope.

DO Find out more about anchors. Why do some boats need bigger anchors? Ask an adult to tell about a time Jesus was their anchor.

DO Read or say your memory verse together.

SING Sing "Redeemed" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 68).

M O N D A Y

READ Read Luke 2:25-35 during family worship. Why do you think Simeon was so interested in Baby Jesus? (Check your answers.)

He loved babies.

All Israel was hoping for the Messiah to come.

The Messiah would save the people from their sins.

He wanted to see the Messiah before he died.

DO Ask an older person to tell you about their hope in Jesus. Thank God for the gift of His Son.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Tell your family one thing that you hope for next week, next year, forever. Ask them to share their hopes.

DO How did Anna share her hope? Read Luke 2:38 together. How can you spread hope?

SING Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129).



THURSDAY

SHARE

Talk about storms with your family. How would you feel if you were out in a small boat and a storm came up? Read Hebrews 6:19 together. What is our hope in Jesus like?

DO

Make a boat out of clay, wood, or paper. Make an anchor and attach it with a string. Float your boat in a basin of water. Blow to create a storm. How is this like problems in our lives? Read Hebrews 6:20, first sentence, together. Who is your anchor?

FRIDAY

DO

Act out this week's Bible lesson story.

DO

Make the last page of your "Jesus' Baby Book." Draw a picture of Jesus coming in the clouds. Write on the page: "He will come again—the Blessed Hope!"

SING

Sing songs of hope together. Tell your hopes and resolutions for the New Year.

READ

Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Titus 2:13 together. What future does Jesus plan for you? For your family? Pray that God will guide you.

The offering Mary and Joseph brought to the temple when they took Jesus was the offering for poor people—two doves instead of a lamb.



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PUZZLE

Directions: After studying your lesson, fill in the spaces on the cross.



Down: Simeon would not die until he saw the

Across: Anna joined Simeon in praising God for baby
