



REFERENCES: LUKE 2:21-38; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 50-58.

Dedicated to God

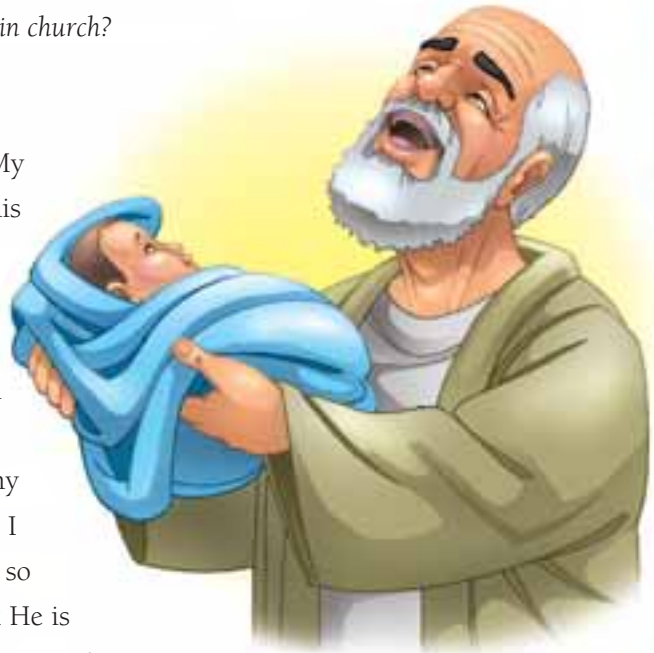
*Have you ever seen a baby dedication in church?
Were you dedicated to God? Jesus was.*

H

ello, young friends. My name is Mary, and this is my little baby boy. His name is Jesus. Joseph and I named

Him that because that is what the angel told us to name Him. He is a special baby. He is God's Son. But He is also my

little son, and I just love Him so much. I think He is beautiful and so precious.



Memory Verse

“Children are a gift from the Lord.”

PSALM 127:3, ICB.

The Message

God shares His gift with everyone.

I want to tell you about what happened the other day. We took Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God. In our country it is our custom to take the first baby boy in the family to the Temple for a special service. We took with us an offering of two pigeons.

While the priest accepted our offerings, an older man named

Simeon saw our baby. He came over to us and asked if he could hold Baby Jesus. I was pleased and gladly let him.

Simeon held Baby Jesus in his arms and looked into His face. Then he started thanking God for letting him see this special baby, the Saviour of the world. "Lord, as You have promised, let me go my way in peace, for I have seen this child who will bring salvation to all people, a light to all people."

Simeon even blessed Joseph and me. We were surprised! We knew Jesus was special, but we didn't quite understand everything yet.

Then an older woman, Anna, came to us, and she asked to see Jesus. Of course, we let her. She smiled the biggest smile I've ever seen. She too began thanking God for letting her see our Jesus. She began telling people who were watching us what a special child Jesus was.

She said our baby was the promised Saviour.

There was so much going on and so many things to think about that I was a bit confused, but pleased, too. Later I thought again and again about the things that Simeon and Anna had said about our special baby.

It had been an amazing day! Both Simeon and Anna had seen something special about our baby. Both had said that He would bring salvation to all, that He was the promised Saviour of the world.

Joseph and I love Jesus just because He is our baby. We know that He is a gift from God to us, and to all the world. Your parents love you, too. Children are very special to God.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story and review the memory verse:

- Children**Point to children.
are a giftHands forward as if giving.
from the Lord. . . .Point upward.
Psalm 127:3Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share the bookmark they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Jesus' baby dedication. (Or help them cut one out of heavy paper, write the memory verse on it, and decorate it.)

MONDAY

Read together Luke 2:21-38. Ask: Where was Jesus' baby dedication? (in the Temple at Jerusalem) Who was happy to see Baby Jesus in the Temple? (Simeon and Anna) Why? What did Mary think about all that Simeon and Anna said?

Sing "Away In a Manger"; then thank God for Jesus, His special gift to everyone.

TUESDAY

Look at books with pictures of babies, young children, and their families. Talk about how Mary and Joseph loved Baby Jesus and about how parents today love their children, too.

Before prayer, sing together "Jesus Loves Me" or "Jesus Loves the Children."

WEDNESDAY

Put a beanbag (or something similar) on your child's back, and ask them to crawl around without letting it fall off. Talk about how they crawled as a baby but now they walk. Ask: What other things have you learned to do? What have you learned about Jesus since you were a baby? Thank Jesus for your "growing" child.



THURSDAY

Together, look at your child's baby pictures and pictures of his or her baby dedication. Describe the events and how you felt.

Have your child look in a mirror while you ask: Who is a special gift from God? Say: You are! Ask: Who is God's special gift to all of us? (Jesus)

FRIDAY

Act out the Bible story with your family. Use a baby doll for Baby Jesus, and wrap Him in a small towel or blanket.

Give your child a hug. Say: "You are a special gift from God." Tell them you love them. Sing songs about Jesus' birth; then thank God for your child and for Jesus, God's gift to the whole world.

