

28.08 Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:21-38)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to circumcise:*
- *to purify:* to make clean
- *to dedicate/consecrate:*
- Saviour: one who saves
- *salvation:* the process of being saved
- *Gentiles:* anyone not a Jew

Scripture:

Luke 2:21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous 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 And he came in 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, 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 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Introduction/Review:

Jesus Christ the Lord was born in a lowly birthplace—a stable—and laid in a manger for His bed. Think of

it! The God of creation humbled Himself to become a human baby, even in the lowest of circumstances so that He might one day be our Saviour.

God exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is as much God as the other. Who is the Son? It is Jesus. He came to earth, taking a human body in order to save sinners.

Story:

Circumcision

In humbling Himself, Jesus also subjected Himself to the Law found in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. One of those laws was to circumcise a boy when he was eight days old. This was also the official day to name the baby. There was no questioning this boy's name. Shy? The angels had said his name was to be *Jesus*. Why? What is the meaning of the name *Jesus*? The One who saves. Jesus would be the Saviour from sins.

Purification

Another law stated the mother had to wait thirty-three days after the birth of a son (66, after a daughter), and then she must go to the Temple in Jerusalem [locate on a map] with a sin offering of a lamb. If she couldn't afford a lamb, she could bring two doves or two pigeons, one for her sin offering and one for her burnt offering. The priest offered this sacrifice for the woman's purification (Leviticus 12:1–8).

Here's another evidence of Jesus' humbleness: his parents were too poor to offer a lamb but, instead, brought the offering, two birds, of the lowly.

Dedication

Another law stated the firstborn son was to be dedicated as holy or separated unto the Lord. Mary and Joseph went to the Temple for this purpose as well as to obey God's laws about purification.

Simeon

Now, an old, honorable man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. The Bible describes him as righteous (doing right) and devout (dedicated to God). The Holy Spirit was upon him, and he "waited for the consolation of Israel." Bible commentators agree that this statement means Simeon was waiting for the Messiah, who is described in the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1–3 as a Comforter.*

God had shown Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the "Lord's Christ." Who is the Lord's Christ? [Jesus—Christ the Lord.] The Holy Spirit led Simeon to the Temple, "and when the parents brought in the child Jesus," he took Jesus into his arms and praised God, saying [Teacher, try to memorize this passage and look up as you say it], "Lord, now you may let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

This statement was a great acknowledgement and pronouncement that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah who would bring light to the Gentiles and be a glory to Jews.

Here was another occasion for Mary and Joseph's amazement. They marveled at this message from Simeon. But Simeon had more to say, this time to Mary. His prophecy was basically this: ✓"Many Israelites will believe on Him; others will not. You, Mary, will have great sorrow as if a sword pierced you." ✓Simeon was prophesying the grief Mary would experience when Jesus would be crucified.

Anna

Another godly person, a woman named Anna, practically lived at the Temple, worshiping, fasting, and praising day and night. She had lost her husband to death after being married only seven years. Now she was very old—✓at least 84 years old and possibly closer to 100.

At the very hour when Mary and Joseph were dedicating Jesus and offering their sacrifices at the Temple,

Anna, too, saw Jesus. She, too, “began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” In other words, Anna also recognized Jesus as the Messiah; so she thanked God for Jesus and spoke about Him to all the people she knew in Jerusalem who were waiting for Him. The fullness of time was indeed now fulfilled in Jesus.**

*”The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:1–3).

**Luke 2:39, “. . . they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth,” presents a problem since the next event in Jesus’ life takes place in Bethlehem, not Nazareth. Here are commentaries on this issue:

“They returned into Galilee - Not immediately, but after a time. Luke has omitted the flight into Egypt recorded by Matthew; but he has not denied it, nor are his words to be pressed as if he meant to affirm that they went immediately to Nazareth. A parallel case we have in the life of Paul. When he was converted it is said that he came to Jerusalem, as if he had gone there immediately after his conversion Acts 9:26; yet we learn in another place that this was after an interval of three years, Galatians 1:17-18. In the case before us there is no improbability in supposing that they returned to Bethlehem, then went to Egypt, and then to Galilee” (Barnes <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/luke/2.htm>).

“They returned into Galilee: not that they came from thence to Jerusalem, but from Bethlehem, where Mary gave birth, and her time for purification was now just expired: nor did they go now directly to Galilee; or, if they did, they soon came back again to Bethlehem, since here the wise men found them two years after; when by a divine warning, they went into Egypt, where they remained till Herod’s death, and after came into the land of Israel, into the parts of Galilee, and dwelt at Nazareth; for which reason it is here called their own city” (Gill at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/luke-2-39.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God: Simeon declared, “My eyes have seen your salvation [Jesus].” Anna, too, recognized Him as the Messiah.
- It is not dishonorable to be poor.
- Observe the characteristics of godly people—doing right, praying, fasting, knowing and obeying God’s Word. Ask the Lord to make you godly.
- Praise God that He sent the Saviour into the world.

Activities:

- Play dough: baby, two birds
- Discuss parents’ choosing names for babies. Were students named for someone else? Did parents name before birth or after birth? (For example, my parents’ names both started with the letters, *M-A-R*; so all their children’s names began with the same letters.)
- Find the meanings of students’ names. Print out for students to take home.
- Sing “Simeon and Anna” found below.
- Play-act the story using a doll for Jesus. Include these scenes: Mary and Joseph with Jesus walk into the Temple courts; Simeon tells his story and takes Jesus into his arms, blessing God; he gives the baby back to Mary; Anna praises God; she goes and tells others that the Saviour is here; Mary, Joseph, and

Jesus leave for home.

- Numbers game: Students show with their fingers the answers to questions.
 1. How many days after birth was Jesus circumcised? [Eight.]
 2. How many days after birth did Mary and Joseph and Jesus go to the Temple? [Thirty-three: flash ten fingers three time and then three fingers.]
 3. How many doves or pigeons did Mary bring for her purification sacrifices? [Two.]
 4. How many years old was Anna? [Eighty-four or maybe one hundred.]
 5. How many people were in Jesus' family at this time? [Three.]
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare and label two large felt squares with the names *Bethlehem* and *Jerusalem*. Cut small squares to represent distance traveled from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. Students place these small squares for each correct answer.)
 1. What is the name of the Baby who was circumcised in this story? [Jesus.]
 2. Tell one reason (out of two) why Mary, Joseph, and Jesus went to the Temple. [Offer purification sacrifices; dedicate the firstborn Son.]
 3. Give one evidence that Jesus' birth was poor and lowly. [Born in a stable; laid in a manger; Mary's offering indicated she was poor.]
 4. Who was the godly man at the Temple? [Simeon.]
 5. Tell one thing the Bible says to show Simeon was godly? [Called righteous, devout; he was waiting for the Messiah; the Holy Spirit was on him.]
 6. What had the Holy Spirit shown Simeon? [He would not die before seeing the Lord's Christ.]
 7. What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? [Took him in his arms; blessed God.]
 8. What did Simeon say to Mary? [Many will believe; some will not; she would have sorrow.]
 9. Name the godly widow at the Temple. [Anna.]
 10. How did Anna respond to seeing Jesus? [Gave thanks to God; told others.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Luke 2:30–32—[Simeon said,] “My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”
- John 1:1-14:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only

begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Handwork:

- Print on colorful paper the “My Name Is” certificates. Have students fill in the blanks. If you have means to frame or laminate or in some way enhance the certificate for display, do so.

to circumcise

to purify

to dedicate/consecrate

Saviour

salvation

Gentiles

Simeon and Anna

Words and Music by Marilyn Alexander

1. An old man and an old wo - man had wait - ed for God's
2. **When Jo - seph, Mar - y, and Je - sus came in - to the tem - ple
3. For Je - sus' name means "Sa - viour of men, His own He came to

4
Christ. Her name was An - na, his, Sim - e - on. They prayed and *sac - ri - ficed.
grand, Then Sim - eon and An - na their praise pro claimed to God, who sal - va - tion planned.
save. As Sim - eon and An - na gave prais - es then, so we should now be - have.

*The act of sacrificing is assumed because they were godly.

**Use stanza 2 if teaching only one stanza.

My Name is

_____.

My Name Means

_____.

My Name is

_____.

My Name Means

_____.







