

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS MEETS SIMEON (A.1.WINTER.5)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:21-40
Key Verse	Luke 2:29
Key Concept	I feel happy because I know Jesus.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Explain who Simeon was and why he was so happy 2. Sing Christmas songs/carols they have learned 3. Express gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus

Life Application

Many people were waiting for the arrival of the Son of God, but they were expecting a king. One of the people who had been waiting a long time was Simeon. He was at the temple in Jerusalem one day when Joseph, Mary and Jesus visited. Mary and Joseph were presenting Jesus in the temple like many people do at church today. When Simeon saw Jesus the Spirit of God revealed that Jesus was God's promised son. Simeon responded with joy and worship. This is how we should respond to Jesus.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Puzzle	surprises	5 minutes
Bible Story	Puppets, Bible, story, image of a cow, a face	10 minutes
Craft	sheets of paper, poster board, scissors, glue	15 minutes
Song, Prayer, Bible Verse	music, instruments, illustration	10 minutes
Gift	popsicle/craft sticks, toothpicks, glue, poster board, markers, paints, paint brushes	20 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Puzzle: It was a big surprise for Simeon when he met Jesus and recognized that he was the Son of God. To start the story today, you can make some surprise bags (fill them with a package of cookies/crackers, a piece of candy, stickers, etc.) Hide the bags around the room ahead of time and have the children find them. When everyone has found a bag, talk about what it feels like to be surprised.

Bible Story: (Luke 2:21-40) You will find a suggested way to tell the story in the following pages. You can use finger puppets or glue puppets on popsicle sticks. Again, add a happy face to your wall of faces.

Craft: You will find a labyrinth in the following pages, which the children can work on. Make a copy for each child. Explain that when Simeon saw Jesus, he approached him and saw that he was the Son of God. Help the littlest ones with this activity. There are also some patterns for puppets that the children can make. Then they can tell the story in their own words with the puppets.

Song and prayer and Bible Verse: It's important to pray every Sunday with the children. They can express thanks to God for the birth of Jesus. Help them to express themselves by modeling prayer. You can teach them simple prayers like, "Thank you God for my friends here. Thank you for Christmas when we can remember the birth of Jesus, our best friend." Then invite the children to add other reasons they are thankful. When you are teaching the verse, make sure that the children understand all of the words. It's easy to repeat words but there is no value in it if the children don't understand what they are saying. If you can create your own melody and use it to teach the verse this will help them to memorize.

Adventures with GOD!

Gift: To make the gift that is found in this lesson, each child should have a piece of paper that is 18 cm x 18 cm. They should also have a copy of the illustration that they can glue on poster board. Then they can glue the piece of paper to the illustration, putting glue only in the rectangular portion. Then, ask them, what was the gift that God gave us? When they answer “Jesus” you can lift up the piece of paper and they will see Jesus. It would be good to write the Bible verse on the piece of paper, before you give it to the children, so they can take it home and they can say the verse with their parents.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

Simeon with Jesus the Son of God

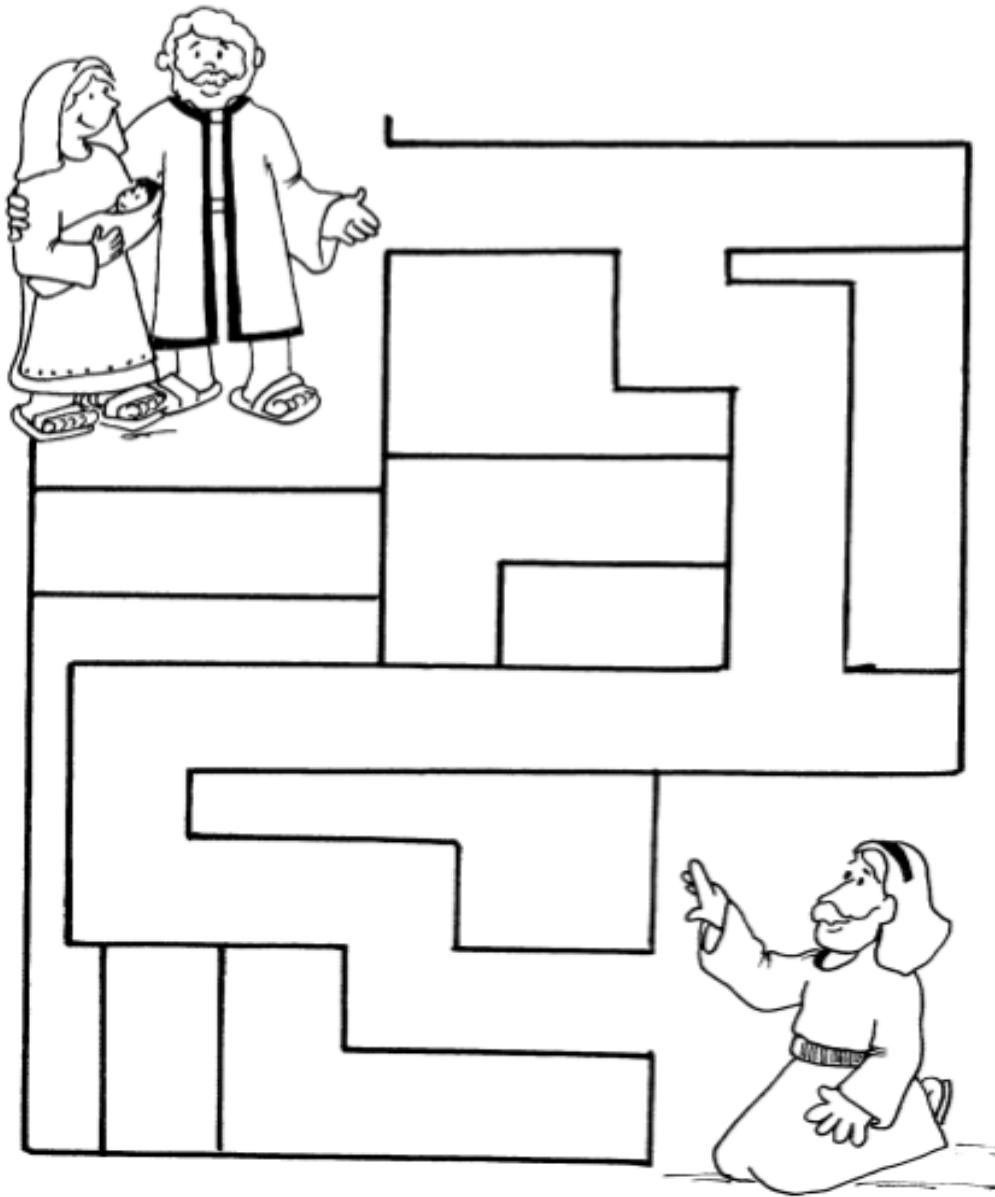


Adventures with GOD!

LABYRINTH

Simeon meets Jesus

Simeon was so happy to meet Jesus. He was so excited to meet him he looked for him. Can you draw a line through the labyrinth so that Simeon can meet Jesus.



Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Discovering the gift

When Jesus was born, his mother, Mary wrapped him in clothes and put him to sleep in a manger. Jesus was God's gift to us.

Color the drawing of Jesus, Then, glue a piece of paper over the picture of Jesus, but only put glue in the rectangular box!! When you lift up the paper you will see the gift God gave us - Jesus!



Adventures with GOD!

DRAMA

The child is brought to the temple

Luke 2:22-40 says that Jesus' parents brought him to Jerusalem to present him to God in the temple. Below you will find a suggested way to tell the story using puppets. The story needs four helpers and a narrator.

Scene/stage: Using a card board box, take off 3 of the long sides. On the long side that remains, cut out a big window. On a white piece of paper, color and cut out two columns. These can be glued to the side of the window. Put the scene/stage on a table what leave enough space for the puppets to come up through the bottom.

Puppets: You will find 4 figures that you can color, cut out and put on popsicle sticks. The figures are of Mary and Jesus, Joseph, Simeon and Ana.

Text:

Mary and Joseph had to obey the custom and take their child, Jesus, to the temple in Jerusalem to present him before God

(Mary and Joseph enter the scene from the left)

They brought two doves to offer as a sacrifice, just like the law said they had to do. While they waited their turn, a man named Simeon approached them

(Simeon enters from the left)

Adventures with GOD!

God had guided him to the temple on the same day. God told Simeon that he wasn't going to die before he saw Jesus, the special baby, the Son of God. Simeon was so happy when he saw Jesus. He even held him in his arms. He left the temple with joy in his heart

(Simeon leaves to the left and Ana enters from the same side)

A woman named Ana approached Mary and Joseph. She had worked day and night in the temple serving God. She also recognized who Jesus was and she was very happy to see him. She left the temple to tell everyone the good news of Jesus' birth.

(Ana leaves to the left)

Mary and Joseph did what they had to do to follow the law and then they went home.

(Mary and Joseph leave to the left)

With the love and care of Joseph and Mary, Jesus grew strong and wise. He experienced God's favor.

Adventures with GOD!

PATTERNS FOR THE PUPPETS

