

Adventures with GOD!

ANA & SIMEON SERVED GOD (A.3.FALL.7)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2: 21-38
Key Verse	Luke 2:30
Key Concept	I serve God no matter how old I am.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Name the characters in the story2. Dramatize the reaction of Simeon and Anna when they saw Jesus.3. Explain how they can be helpers of God during the week.

LIFE APPLICATION

The story of Anna and Simeon is interesting because it shows that we do not have to be strong or young to be helpers of God. They were both older when they finally saw the Messiah, Jesus. The reaction of Simeon and Anna knowing Jesus gave them so much joy that that they ran to share with others. During the week encourage children declare to family and friends that they want to be helpers of God.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	Paper	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Illustrations, crayons	10 minutes
Song	Music, instruments	10 minutes
Crafts	drama	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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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)

Introduction: Before class write on little pieces of paper or draw ways children can serve God and hide them in different places in the classroom. When everyone has arrived, ask them to search for the papers and when they find them read aloud what is written on the slip. Ask if there is a way to serve God. It may be that they have questions or concerns, take time to discuss.

Bible Exploration: Again, emphasize the importance of the bible which is open in your hands. Allow children to touch, caress and pass back and forth. Emphasize the importance of obeying God's Word.

Start telling the story about Simeon, who was a righteous and devout man who had the Holy Spirit upon him. God revealed to him that he would not die before he could see the Savior of the world. Ana was an elderly widow but God had chosen her as his servant in the temple day and night. God therefore was using the skills of these two characters to be part of his divine plan. God used them according to the skills that he himself had given them. When Jesus' parents brought him to the temple, Simeon was interested and knew immediately that it was the Jesus Christ while lifting him in his arms to bless him. Ana meanwhile gave thanks to God and spoke of him all the time. Finally encourage children to feel a desire to serve God and always trust that He will give them tasks they can do and accomplish. Then once again emphasize the importance of obeying God for Him to use us according to His purposes. Simeon and Anna served God with joy and we can do the same. End with prayer of commitment and pray for each child so they too can commit to serve the Lord.

Craft: Color the sheets below. As they do that, it would be interesting to ask questions about the story. Ask each child who wishes to participate by using the pictures used in the story and illustrations answer the questions asked. Make copies and give them to cut to color. They can stick ice cream on sticks or pieces of cardboard to make them resistant.

Song:

He can, He can, I know that He can;
I know that with Jesus, I can.
I know I can serve God with all my love.

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Crafts: If time permits, ask them to come forward to act out parts of the story so the rest of the group can guess what they are doing and tell whether or not they are serving the Lord.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION
Mary and Jesus



ILLUSTRATION

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Jesus is taken to the Temple



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ILLUSTRATION
Simeon with Jesus



Puppets

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Color, cut and paste the puppets on Popsicle sticks. You can use them to tell the story of Mary, Jesus, Simeon and Ana.



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