



## Session

# 4



## SIMEON AND ANNA SAW THE MESSIAH

### Luke 2:21-40

Devout Jews of the first century were still living in obedience to the commands given to Moses at Mount Sinai. Being faithful to God's commands, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem and the temple to dedicate Him to God. Since Mary and Joseph were of meager means, they presented Jesus at the temple with two turtledoves, an acceptable substitute for a lamb which they could not afford. Mary and Joseph's obedience to the law is highlighted several times in this passage of Scripture.

Luke introduced his readers to a man named Simeon. Luke tells us nothing about Simeon other than the fact that he had spent his life devoted to God, waiting for the beginning of the messianic age. The Holy Spirit was with Simeon and had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah. On the day Mary and Joseph were bringing Jesus to the temple, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to the same place. When Simeon saw the child, he proclaimed Jesus as the Savior of the world, the One God sent to rescue all people. Amazed by Simeon's words, Mary and Joseph took to heart Simeon's blessing.

Next, Luke introduced his readers to a prophetess named Anna. Like Simeon, Anna was guided by the Holy Spirit who worked through Anna to share God's messages to the people who came to the temple. Anna had faithfully served in the temple for a significant number of years, dedicating herself to worship and prayer. When Anna saw the baby, she approached and thanked God for the very special role that Jesus would have, particularly as it related to the future salvation of Jerusalem and for all people.

Twice, Mary and Joseph heard from others the same messages they had received from the angels who visited them. Jesus, as His name means, would be the salvation of the world. Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to Nazareth where He grew up.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:21-40

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 4:12

**BIBLE VERSE:** Luke 2:30

**TEXT TRUTH:** The Lord revealed to Simeon and Anna that Jesus was the Messiah—the long-awaited salvation for all people.

**BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT:** Name the genres of the Bible and identify books in each genre. Understand that the Bible is the only inspired, written Word of God.

### BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Jump In:** *baby pictures, Item 15: “Objects: Painting of Simeon and Anna” (Printables)*
- ☐ **Examine the Text:** *Bibles, Item 5: “Text Truth 4” (Poster Pack), Item 15: “Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem” (Poster Pack)*
- ☐ **Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- ☐ **Memory Verse:** *Item 1: “Acts 4:12” (Poster Pack)*
- ☐ **Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- ☐ **Review:** *Item 36: “Events and Map Review” (Printables), Item 15: “Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem” (Poster Pack)*

### ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Bible Skills:** *Item 7: “Bible Book Cards” (Printables), scissors, bag, Item 37: “Bible Book Genre Key” (Printables)*
- ☐ **Move:** *dry erase board and marker, Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables)*
- ☐ **Make:** *clean jars without labels, strips of construction paper in various colors, markers, stickers, puffy paint*
- ☐ **Explore:** *Item 4: “Allergy Alert” (Printables), corn tortillas, Optional: black beans, rice*

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## SIMEON AND ANNA SAW THE MESSIAH

### Luke 2:21-40

*After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple in Jerusalem. The law of Moses required that baby boys be dedicated to the Lord and for the parents to offer a sacrifice of two turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

*In Jerusalem, there was a man named Simeon. Simeon was righteous and faithfully followed God. Simeon looked forward to the day when the Messiah came, and the Holy Spirit empowered Simeon to prophecy about the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until after he saw the Messiah. The Spirit led Simeon to enter the temple. When Mary, Joseph, and Jesus entered the temple, Simeon saw them, and the Lord told Simeon that this baby was the Messiah. Simeon held the child in his arms and praised God.*

*Simeon proclaimed, “God, my eyes have seen Your salvation. You prepared it for all people—a light to the Gentiles and glory for Your people Israel.” Simeon understood that the Messiah would bring salvation to the Israelites and the Gentiles. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said about Jesus.*

*At this moment, the Lord revealed to a prophetess named Anna that Jesus was the Messiah. Anna was a widow and had spent many years living at the temple, serving God night and day, fasting and praying. Anna came up to Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and Simeon and began to thank God and speak about Him to all the people who were waiting for Israel’s redemption.*

*Joseph and Mary finished obeying the law at the temple. They traveled to Nazareth in Galilee. Jesus grew and was strong and filled with wisdom. The favor of God was on Him.*

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of Luke gives a detailed description of the life of Jesus. Jesus was described as the Son of Man who came to save all people—Jews and Gentiles. Because Jesus was fully human, He was tempted and suffered like we do. Luke showed that Jesus cares for people and can understand when we face hard times.

### PRONUNCIATIONS:

Simeon (SIM ih uhn)  
Gentiles (JEN tighl)  
Galilee (GAL ih lee)

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

## TOOLS:

- Jump In: baby pictures, Item 15: "Objects: Painting of Simeon and Anna" (Printables)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, Item 5: "Text Truth 4" (Poster Pack), Item 15: "Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem" (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: "Acts 4:12" (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

## JUMP IN

- Greet kids as they enter and let them know you are glad they came.
- Display various baby pictures—your own or of people you know.
- Say: "Babies are a popular subject for photographs. Since we have the ability to take them with our phones now, I imagine there are hundreds of photos of you as a baby. Just thirty years ago, there would have been fewer photos because digital photos were not an option."
- Display the "Painting of Simeon and Anna."
- Continue: "There was a time when a photograph was not an option at all. Artists tried to recreate what they thought people looked like and the expressions they had."
- Ask: "What do you notice about the people in this painting?" (*Allow for responses.*)
- Say: "This painting is depicting two people who met Jesus as a baby." Ask: "What do their expressions tell us about their feelings upon meeting Jesus?" (*Allow for responses.*)
- Conclude: "Their names were Simeon and Anna, and we will read about them and why there were joyful in today's Bible story."

## EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Say: "We are in the book of Luke again today. Remember, it is the third book in the New Testament and is a part of the genre of gospels."
- Invite kids to open their Bibles to Luke 2.
- Display the "Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem" map.
- Say: "Let's chart the journey of Mary and Joseph so far."
- Ask: "Where were Mary and Joseph when Caesar Augustus sent out the decree for them to register in their hometown?" (*Nazareth*)
- Ask a volunteer to find Nazareth on the map.
- Ask: "Where was Joseph's hometown that they traveled to in order to register?" (*Bethlehem*)
- Ask a volunteer to find Bethlehem on the map.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the Bible story page as a guide. When you mention Jerusalem, ask for a volunteer to find it on the map and then point out Nazareth again at the end of the story. Stop and ask a volunteer to read Luke 2:40.
- Ask: "Who grew up and was filled with wisdom?" (*Jesus*) "Who's grace/favor was on Jesus?" (*God's*)
- Invite other volunteers to read aloud Luke 2:28-30,38.



- Say: “Now we understand why the artist painted Simeon and Anna so excited and joyful in the portrait. They both understood Jesus’ purpose and reason for coming to earth as a baby.”
- Display the Text Truth.
- Say: **“The Lord revealed to Simeon and Anna that Jesus was the Messiah—the long-awaited salvation for all people.”**
- Ask: “Have you ever waited a really long time for something or for someone to visit? It can be hard! God’s people had been waiting for the Messiah for about four thousand years! Imagine the joy and relief Anna and Simeon experienced to know He had arrived.”

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 4 video.
- Inquire: “What was Joel waiting for? Who wants to try some cobbler? Who was the Messiah the people had waited for?”

### MEMORY VERSE

- ☐ *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Acts 4:12. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week’s Bible Verse is Luke 2:30.*

- Say: “Christmas is a time that we often associate with music. Carols and hymns fill our churches, homes, and cars. Music is an easy way to memorize words. Let’s use it to help us with our Memory Verse.”
- Display the “Acts 4:12” poster.
- Form small groups and ask kids to name easy tunes of Bible songs, hymns, or praise songs. Then challenge them to match the words of the Memory Verse with one of those tunes. Allow each group to share their song with everyone.

### PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards.
- Say: “Just like Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives to meet the Messiah, we have people in our lives that we are waiting to see trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Let’s take time to pray for those people, and commit to pray for them each day this week.”
- Lead kids in a prayer for people they know who need to repent of their sin and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.

## APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 36: "Events and Map Review" (Printables), Item 15: "Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem" (Poster Pack)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Select a volunteer to read about the "Painting of Simeon and Anna."
- Guide kids to mark their responses in "Wait, Wait, Wait." Invite kids to share some of their responses with the group.
- Invite another volunteer to read aloud "Two Turtledoves."
- Read about "Herod's Temple Complex" and direct kids to examine the image closely.
- Lead girls and boys to unscramble the "Scrambled Words" from today's Bible story. (*Answers: Simeon, Anna, temple, Spirit, salvation, child, widow, redemption*)

### REVIEW

- Display the "Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem" map.
- Say: "The last few weeks we have learned about events that took place in these locations. I am going to read about an event, and you will raise your hand if you think it took place when Mary and Joseph were in Nazareth, Bethlehem, or Jerusalem."
- Read each event and point to each place on the map while the kids vote. Reveal the correct location. Continue until all of the event locations have been identified.

# ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



## PASS, PICK, AND POP UP

Tools: Item 7: “Bible Book Cards” (Printables), scissors, bag, Item 37: “Bible Book Genre Key” (Printables)

- ☐ **Print and cut out the “Bible Book Cards” and place them in the bag. Print the “Bible Book Genre Key.”**
- Say: “The last couple of weeks we have played games to learn which genre (or writing style) each book of the Old Testament and New Testament belongs to. This week, we are going to put all 66 books in play and see how much we remember.”
- Pass around the bag with the “Bible Book Cards” and invite kids to each draw one card.
- Call out a Bible book genre and instruct kids to stand up if their book of the Bible is in that genre.
- Refer to the “Bible Book Genre Key” to check their answers. Make any necessary corrections, then allow the kids to draw new cards. Continue playing until all of the cards have been drawn.
- Conclude: “Great job on remembering what we have worked on the past couple of weeks! The Bible is the only inspired, written Word of God. God’s Word becomes more real to us the more we read it and understand it. Learning what writing style each book is written in helps give us a deeper understanding of the book.”



## JUMP FOR JOY!

Tools: dry erase board and marker, Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables)

- Invite kids to share ideas of things that bring people joy. Write their ideas on the dry erase board. Add your own ideas too.
- Instruct kids to be seated.
- Say: “I’m going to call out an idea from the dry erase board and if that idea brings you joy, jump up! Then I will ask a ‘Review Question,’ and the people standing will get a chance to answer.”
- Continue playing until all of the ideas have been called out. Use previous weeks’ “Review Questions” if needed.
- Say: “Simeon and Anna felt joy because **the Lord revealed to Simeon and Anna that Jesus was the Messiah—the long-awaited salvation for all people.**”



## WAITING ON GOD JAR

*Tools: clean jars without labels, strips of construction paper in various colors, markers, stickers, puffy paint*

- ☐ Collect craft supplies to decorate jars. You do not have to use all the supplies listed, and you can add other supplies if you wish.

- Say: “Anna and Simeon waited their whole lives to meet the Messiah. They had put their hope in Him and believed He would come one day. I am sure many of their prayers were about this very event. **The Lord revealed to Simeon and Anna that Jesus was the Messiah—the long-awaited salvation for all people.** We also have to wait and hope for things, so we are going to make a jar that contains things we hope for or are waiting on God to do.”
- Instruct kids to take several strips of construction paper and write things that they are waiting on, praying about, or hoping for.
- Direct them to write *Waiting on God to...* on the outside of the jar, then allow them to decorate their jar with the craft supplies you provided. Finally, place the strips of paper in the jars.
- Say: “Every week, you can take out a different piece of paper and pray about what is written on it. When a prayer is answered, write *prayer answered* and the date on the back.”
- Remind kids that God often answers our prayers in ways that we don’t expect. Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna did not expect the Messiah to come as a baby, but that was God’s perfect plan. God’s plans are always good and exactly what we need. Sometimes that means He answers our prayers with a “no,” sometimes He says “yes,” and sometimes He says “wait a little longer” because that is what is best.



## SNACK AND PRAY

*Tools: Item 4: “Allergy Alert” (Printables), corn tortillas, Optional: black beans, rice*

- ☐ Print a copy of the “Allergy Alert” and list on it the foods you will be providing for kids to taste. Display the sign near the door for parents to see.

- Distribute a corn tortilla and any other food item you provided for kids to taste as you talk about Guatemala and the missionaries telling people about Jesus in the area.
- When walking through the streets, markets, and town squares, you can see the culture of the Guatemalan people with their traditional dress, crafts, and food. Many local artisans are eager to tell you about their crafts and their family histories. Guatemalan foods consist primarily of spicy stews, tamales, and special salads. However, each region usually has its own typical dish. The Antigua dish is *piloyada*, which is a large brown bean salad prepared with quite a bit of meat and vinegar.
- A fun thing for visitors in Antigua to do is visit chocolate shops and museums to learn how important the cacao bean was for Mayan culture and how to transform cacao beans into chocolate bars.
- Tell kids that papaya and breadfruit are some of the many fruits eaten in Guatemala.
- David and Regina White enjoy hosting individuals and church groups who come to help them in their ministry. They also enjoy visiting with Guatemalan people in their homes and in the marketplace to tell the people about Jesus. The White family loves building relationships with the Guatemalan people and seeing them trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord.