

Bible background

Luke 2

Aim of lesson

To teach how important was the birth of Jesus and how patiently Anna and Simeon had waited for this, giving God thanks when their patience was rewarded.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials. A story-book, with pictures, of the birth of Jesus would be helpful.

Suggested outline of lesson

- 1 Briefly tell the children the main points of the story of the birth of Jesus, to set the background.
- 2 Continue with the narrative explaining why Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. You can use the picture on the activity sheet here (pigeon).
- 3 Explain about Simeon who had waited a long time to see Jesus and how he knew that he would see Jesus before he died, and how God had guided Simeon to the Temple at the time Mary and Joseph brought Jesus there. Tell the children about the special things Simeon said about Jesus, which showed everyone including Mary and Joseph how very important Jesus was.
- 4 This is repeated in the story of Anna, so the points can be reinforced by repetition. She too was very old. She lived in the Temple worshipping God day and night. Try and express the immense joy she must have felt in seeing Jesus - she thanked God and told everyone around about this special baby.

Alternative activities

- 1 Make a model of the temple from Lego, blocks etc. Make Plasticine figures of Simeon, Anna, Mary, Joseph and Jesus.
- 2 Help the children to make a simple figure of Simeon or Anna from a dolly peg – draw on a face, add cotton wool hair (and beard for Simeon) and pipe cleaner arms. Simple clothes can be made from some scrap cloth by folding a rectangle in half and then cutting an opening for the head of your figure in the middle of the fold. Secure the cloth around the middle of the figure with wool, making sure you leave the arms free. These can then be bent in front of the figure to cradle a Plasticine or pipe cleaner baby. Wrap the baby in some cloth or paper swaddling bands. To stand the figure up, stick the base of the peg into a large lump of Plasticine.

Now something harder

If your children find this exercise difficult you could provide them with a list of the words to help with spelling.

Relevance to the children's lives

Jesus is still very important today. God wants everyone to know about his Son; we can read all about him in our Bibles.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for the birth of your Son, Jesus.

Verse

'Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God' Luke 2:28.

Song

Jesus Came (Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Jesus Came'. The first staff contains the melody and the second staff contains the guitar chords. The chords are: C, F, C, F, Bb, C, F, F, C, F, Dm, C, F, Bb, C, F.

v.1 Jesus came
Jesus came
When he was a baby to Jerusalem.
Simeon was waiting
Anna waited too
Many years they'd waited in Jerusalem.

v.2 Son of God
Son of God
Has come to the Temple in Jerusalem
Simeon is happy
Anna is happy too
Many years they'd waited in Jerusalem.

Music: Traditional