

Simeon and Anna

Jesus
Lesson 5

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Anna and Simeon as people who loved God and served him.
- The children will describe ways they can serve God as Simeon and Anna did.
- The children will thank God that they can serve others.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:21-40

Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

John 3:16

Lesson Outline

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Baby Collage

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Great News!

Life Application: Baby Jesus

Craft: Love Dove

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



Simeon and Anna

Baby Collage

The children will each make a small baby collage, and they will put their collages together on a poster.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick

For the teacher:

- construction paper
- magazines with pictures of babies and baby toys (catalogues, parenting magazines etc.)
- construction paper
- 1 piece of poster board
- markers or paint

Preparation

1. From the magazines cut out pictures of babies and things that relate to babies, i.e. diapers, rattles, toys.
2. Cut a 6" circle from construction paper for each child.
3. Cut the poster board into a large circle.
4. Paint or color the circle blue and green to look like the world.

Instructions

1. Give the children each a 6" circle.
2. Have the children choose pictures and glue them to their circles.
3. When they have finished, have them glue their circles to the poster board.

Conclusion

Ask the children questions about babies, such as:

- What do babies need? (food, milk, love, gentleness)
- Who made babies? (God)
- Where do babies live? (with a family)

Remind the children that Jesus was a baby. Pointing out the pictures on the collage, ask them: *Do you think Jesus needed these things?*

Teacher Tips

If you have a large class, you may need to use two pieces of poster board and make a larger "world."



Simeon and Anna

Great News!

The children will learn about Anna and Simeon and their joy when they saw Jesus.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:21-40

Materials

For the teacher:

- robe or sheet
- 2 Love Dove crafts from the Craft teacher
- 4 adult shirts (optional)
- 2 scarves (optional)
- 4 belts (optional)

Preparation

Read through the Lesson Text and the following story.

Instructions

Tell the following story from the point of view of Mary or Joseph, for example say:

I remember the day that we brought Jesus to the temple. He was only eight days old. Can you remember when you were only eight days old?

In Bible days, God expected parents to bring their new baby to the temple to offer a sacrifice. We took baby Jesus to the temple, and we took two doves as a sacrifice. Do you know what doves are? They are pretty birds. Show the children the doves.

Just as we were taking baby Jesus into the temple, an old man named Simeon came to us. He took our baby, Jesus, into his arms and said some surprising things. First he told God how happy he was that he got to see Jesus. God had told him that before he died

he would see Jesus. He was so thankful to God! Then, he told us that Jesus would grow up and help many people know God. He also said that sometimes it would be very hard for Jesus, because people would not like him.

As Simeon was speaking, an old woman came to us. Her name was Anna. She lived in the temple, serving and praying to God. She was a prophetess. Do you know what that is? It is a woman who tells people all about God. Anna told lots of people about Jesus. She told them that he was going to help them to love God (Luke 2:38).

Both Anna and Simeon had waited a long time to see Jesus. They were eager to tell people about how special he was.

Conclusion

Simeon might have waited a long time to see Jesus. How do you think he felt when he saw him? (happy) How did Anna feel when she saw Jesus? Why were they so excited? Why was Jesus special?

Have you ever waited a long time for something? A birthday? Christmas? A new baby sister or brother? Was it hard to wait? Did you talk about it while you waited? After it happened, did you talk to people about how special it was? Tell the children of something that you had to wait for and how you shared about it with other people later.

Jesus is so special to us. We should tell other people about him, too.

Teacher Tips

- Be sure to relate the questions to the children's lives.
- If time allows, have the children dress in the sheets and belts and act out the story.

Simeon and Anna



Simeon and Anna

Baby Jesus

The children will talk about Jesus' special qualities and ways that they can serve God.

Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."
John 3:16

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 baby doll

Preparation

1. Make a list of Jesus' special qualities, i.e. love, kindness, generosity, honesty.
2. Make a list of ways that you and the children can serve God, i.e., Help the poor, make a present for a friend at school or bring food to a neighbor.

Instructions

Have the children sit in a circle. Show them the doll and ask them to pretend that it is Jesus.

We are going to pass the baby Jesus doll around so everyone can hold him just as Simeon did. *When it is your turn to hold Jesus, you can say something special about him.*

Start by giving an example. *When I think of Jesus, I think of someone who loved people.*

Pass the baby Jesus doll to the child next to you. *Now you do the same thing and say something that you think is special about Jesus.*

After the baby Jesus doll has gone around the circle once, tell the children that you are going to pass Jesus around again, but this time, they should say what they can do to serve God as Anna and Simeon did.

Start by giving an example. *I can serve God by making a meal for my neighbor.* Then give the baby Jesus doll to the child next to you.

Scripture Memory Activity

Pass the baby Jesus doll around the circle as the children say the memory verse.

Conclusion

You named a lot of things that are special about Jesus. When you serve people, you are acting just like Jesus. Serving and loving people helps them to know God. There are so many people who don't know how special Jesus is.

Let's pray and thank God that we can serve people.

Teacher Tips

- The children may need help thinking of things that are special about Jesus or ways they can serve God. Use your lists to help them.
- Your group may not have heard the Bible story yet, so be sure to tell them that Anna and Simeon were people who served God.



Simeon and Anna

“For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one
and only Son.”

John 3:16



Simeon and Anna

Love Dove

The children will create a dove to represent the doves that Mary and Joseph took with them to the temple when they went to consecrate Jesus before the Lord.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 white paper plate, 6"
- 1 white Styrofoam cup or paper cup
- markers and/or crayons
- scissors

For the teacher:

- ruler
- utility knife
- scissors

Preparation

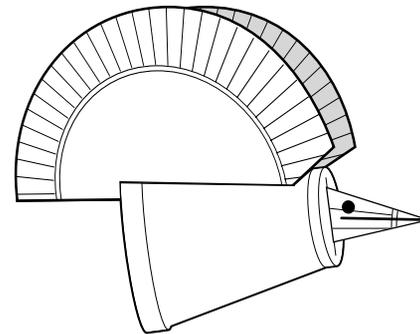
1. Prepare each cup, as shown in Figure A, as follows:
 - A. Using the utility knife, cut a 1/4" slit in the bottom of each cup.
 - B. Measure and then cut the two side slits as shown in the figure.
2. Make THREE models of the craft. IMPORTANT: One model is used for the craft example and the other two are to be given to the Core Bible Story teacher.

Instructions

1. Show the children your model of the dove. *In the Bible Story we learned that Mary and Joseph brought two doves with them to the temple. The dove that you make will remind you of the story.*
2. Give the children each a small paper plate. Have them each fold their plate in half so the bottom of the plate is now on the outside.
3. Have the children cut off a wedge from the corner of each plate. See Figure B. This will be the dove's "beak."
4. Have each child draw an eye and a mouth on both sides of the dove's beak. See Figure C.
5. Have each child color both the inside and the outside of the folded plate. These will be the dove's "wings."
6. Give each child a cup. Have the child slide the beak into the slit in the bottom of the cup, as shown in Figure D. When the beak is in place, the side slits should be on top and the eyes and mouth of the beak should be visible through the bottom of the cup.
7. Have the children insert the wings, wedge first into the slits in the side of the cup. See Figure E.

Conclusion

Talk to the children about Anna and Simeon. Remind them that they were people who loved and served God at the temple.



CRAFT

Simeon and Anna

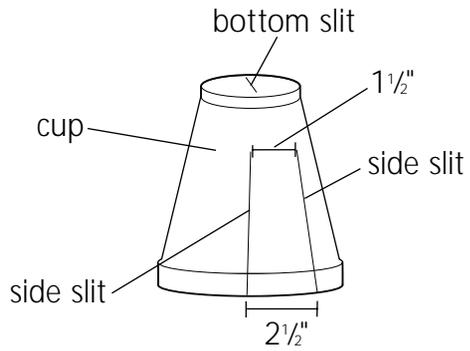


Figure A

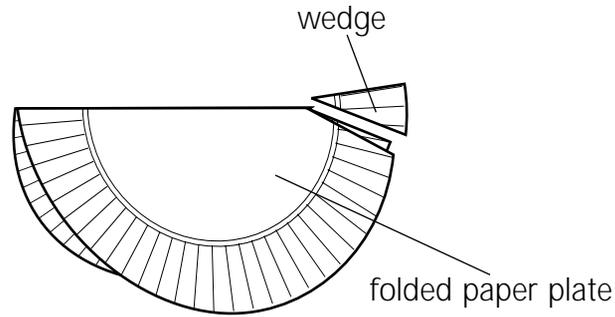


Figure B

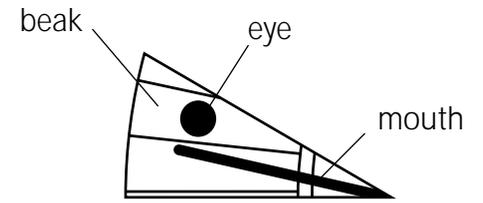


Figure C

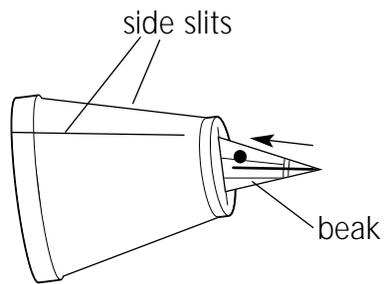


Figure D

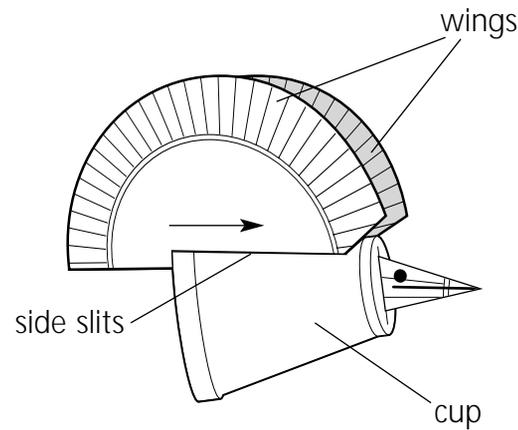


Figure E





Pre class



Simeon and Anna

Jesus

Lesson 5

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Lesson Text

Luke 2:21-40

Scripture Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

John 3:16

Big as Life

The children will decorate life-size characters to be used in the Craft center.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 pieces of cardboard 5' x 7' (you can obtain a refrigerator box from an appliance store)
- pencil
- utility knife or scissors
- markers or crayons
- glue sticks or white glue
- cotton balls
- fabric scraps
- scarf for a sash
- other decorative items
- newspaper or a sheet

Preparation

1. Lie down on one piece of cardboard and have someone trace your body onto the cardboard with a pencil.
2. Cut out the body shape with the utility knife.
3. Repeat this process with the second piece of cardboard.

Instructions

1. Remind the children that Anna and Simeon were people who loved God, served him and prayed to him. *What do you think they looked like? Yes, they were old. We're going to decorate these two body shapes to look like Anna and Simeon.*
2. Put the newspaper down on the floor for the children to work on.
3. Have the children decorate the body shapes, one as Anna and one as Simeon.

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Big as Life

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: You Can Serve!

Craft: Praying Pretzels

Life Application: Baby Jesus

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



You Can Serve!

In this game the children will discuss ways they can serve God and others.

Materials

For the teacher:

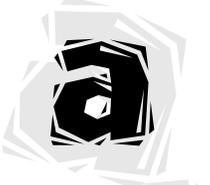
- spinner
- 1 piece of posterboard, 8½" x 11"
- glue stick
- crayons or markers
- 1 brass fastener
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Glue the copy of Reproducible Page A to the poster board.
2. Cut out the spinner and the arrow.
3. Prepare the different sections of the spinner as follows:
 - A. Color the "neighbor" section red.
 - B. Color the "people in need" section green.
 - C. Color the "family" section yellow.
 - D. Color the "friend" section blue.
4. Attach the arrow to the spinner by pushing the brass fastener through the circle on the arrow and then through the circle in the middle of the spinner.



Instructions

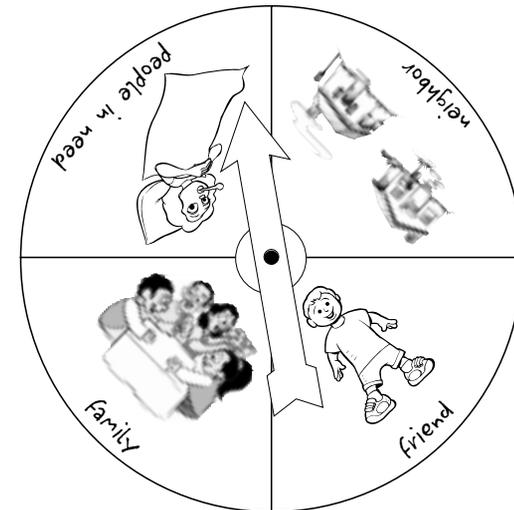
1. Seat the children in a circle and place the spinner in the center of the circle.
2. Begin the game with a demonstration. Spin the spinner. When it stops, say the color and read what is written in that section. Tell the children you can serve God by serving a person. For example, say: *I landed on the red section. That's the neighbor section. I can serve my neighbor, Edna, by cleaning off her car when it snows.*

Conclusion

There are so many people that God puts in our lives. It is important for us to love them, help them and teach them about God.

Teacher Tips

- Help the children to think of what they can do to serve others.
- Help the children to read the name of the category where the arrow lands.



Praying Pretzels

The children will make a necklace of pretzels to remind them that Anna and Simeon were people who prayed and were close to God.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 large bag of small, twisted pretzels
- 1 small bowl for every two children
- thin ribbon or yarn

Preparation

1. Cut the ribbon into 34" pieces, one piece for each child.
2. Make a model of the necklace following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Show the children a pretzel. *How did this pretzel get to be this shape? What shape do you think it is?* Let them share their ideas. *A long time ago pretzels were made as food to be given to the poor. They were made in the shape of folded arms. Fold your arms like a pretzel. This looks like someone who is praying. Who prayed to God often? Yes, Anna did. Simeon also prayed to God. Today we are going to use pretzels to remind us to pray to God. God wants us to pray. This is one way that we can serve God. We are going to make Praying Pretzel necklaces!* Show the children a finished necklace.
2. Divide the children into groups of two.
3. Give each of the children a piece of ribbon.
4. Place a bowl of pretzels between each pair of children.
5. Show the children how to weave the ribbon in and out of the two top holes of the pretzel. Tell them not to weave the ribbon through the third or bottom hole in the pretzels. See Figure A.
6. Have the children put as many pretzels as possible on their necklaces, and then help them to tie the ends of the ribbon together.
7. Have them wear their necklaces.

Conclusion

Have the children pray together as a group. Remind them that are being like Simeon and Anna when they pray to God.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- Some children might need help getting their necklaces started.
- The leftover pretzels can be used as the snack! Be sure to pray before you eat!
- The children can give their Praying Pretzel necklace to someone that they are praying for or if there is time, they can make another one for a friend.



Simeon and Anna

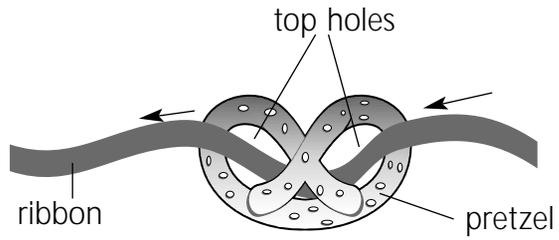


Figure A



Finished Craft



Simeon and Anna

Baby Jesus

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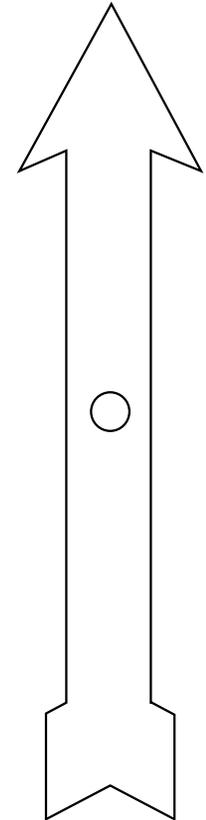
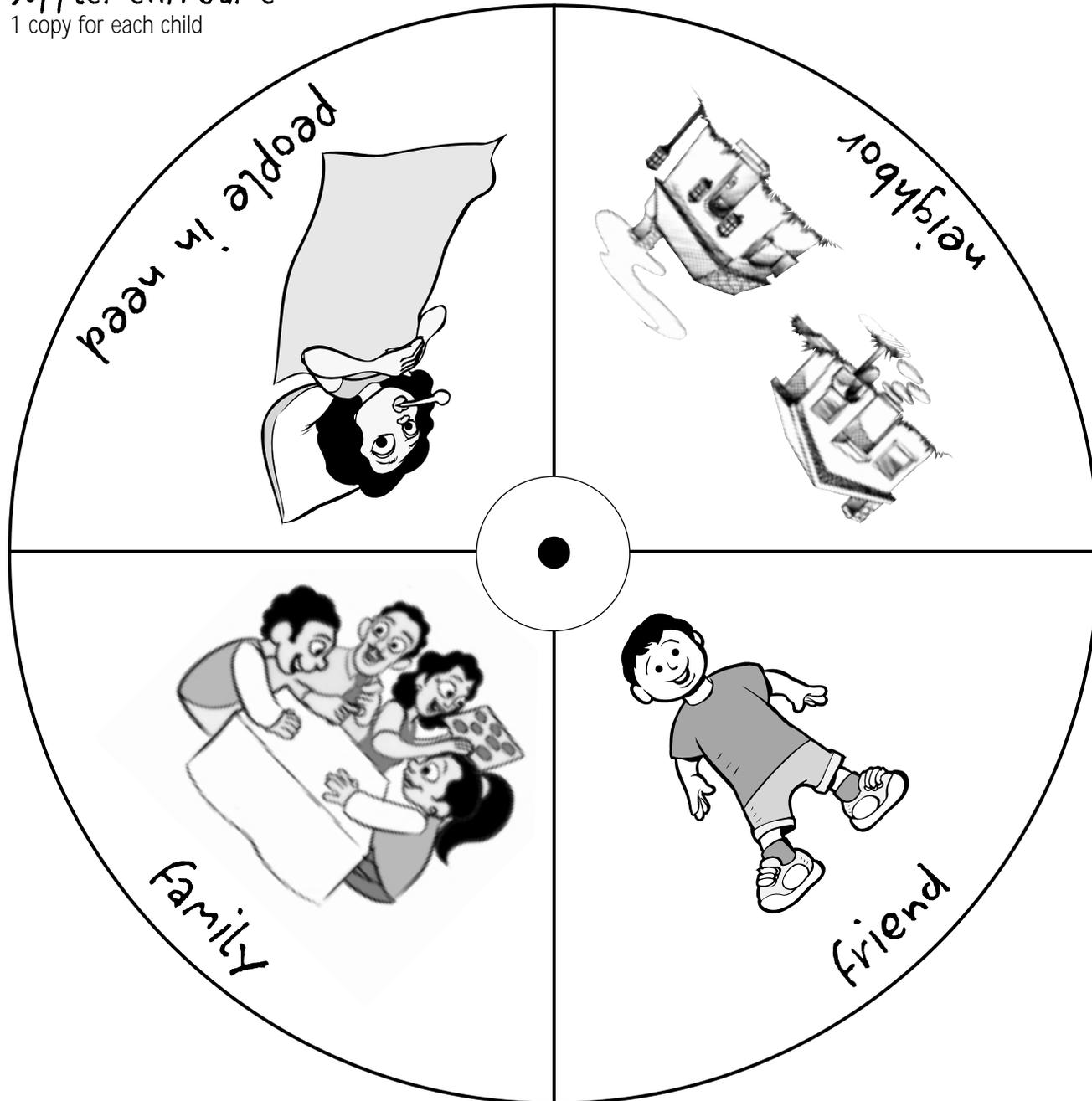


“For God so loved
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John 3:16



Supplement/Game
1 copy for each child



arrow

spinner