



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for December 30, 2007
Released on Wednesday, December 26, 2007**

"Called to Witness"

MEMORY VERSE: "Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34).

Luke 2:22-35

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;
23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also;) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God expects His children to tell others what He has shown them about Jesus.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Simeon told Joseph and Mary what God had shown him about Jesus.

God's plan is for us to take what we know about Jesus and pass it on to others.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Mary's baby was forty days old. According to Old Testament law, it was time for Him to be officially presented to God. The couple traveled from Bethlehem to the temple in Jerusalem for this ceremony.

Simeon, a godly man who was awaiting the Messiah's coming, came in while they were there. God had in some way shown him that he would not die until he had seen the promised One. Now God revealed to him that this baby was the One for whom he had waited.

Holding the infant Jesus, Simeon foretold such a remarkable future for the Child that Joseph and Mary both marveled at his words. Simeon would not have known the details of Jesus' earthly life, death, and resurrection, but what he did know, he told. Jesus would be "light" and "glory" (Luke 2:32) for both Gentiles and Jews.

Anna came upon the scene and then spoke of Jesus to all she knew had been awaiting His coming (vs. 36-38).

Joseph and Mary's encounter with Simeon and then Anna demonstrates God's age-old plan for spreading the gospel. The communication system is word of mouth. One person tells another.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, make a large sign reading "TELL." You will also use this in Telling the Lesson and Telling How to Live.

For Telling the Lesson, bring these pictures: Mary holding Baby Jesus, the temple, Simeon, Simeon holding Baby Jesus, and Anna.

For Helping to Remember, cut sheets of construction paper in half lengthwise and then in half again. For each student, tape two of these strips together, end to end. You will need crayons, glue, glitter, and transparent or masking tape.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

(Display "TELL," and leave the sign standing.) A lot of telling went on about the time Jesus was born. First, an angel told Mary. Then he told Joseph. Even before that, he told Zacharias that someone special was coming. Can you think of some other telling that happened?

Today's lesson is about more people who told what they knew. (Point to "TELL.") Let us find out who they were. (Open your Bible.)

TELLING THE LESSON

When Mary's baby was eight days old, it was naming day. (Show Mary holding Baby Jesus.) She and Joseph named Him "Jesus," just as the angel had said.

Babies grow, and Baby Jesus grew. At that time, people always gave their first baby boy to the Lord. Soon the special day came for Joseph and Mary to do that. So, carrying

Baby Jesus, they traveled to the big city of Jerusalem. There they took Him into the temple, where the people worshiped God. (Show temple.) And there they gave Him to God.

It was as though they were holding out the baby and saying, "You gave Him to us, Lord, and here He is. Use Him in any way You want."

Just then, in came an old man named Simeon. (Show Simeon.) He wanted very much to please God, and he had been waiting for the Saviour God had promised. God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Lord's Christ. When Simeon saw Baby Jesus there in the temple, God let him know this was the One he had been waiting for.

Simeon carefully took the baby. (Show Simeon holding Jesus.) Then, as he held Him, Simeon talked to God.

First, he told the Lord how good and great He was. Next, he said, "Now I can die happily. My eyes have seen the One You have sent to be the Saviour for all people."

Then Simeon looked at Mary. He said, "This Child will cause many to rise or to fall." Those strange words meant that some people would believe Jesus was from God, and that would be good for them. Other people would be against Jesus, and that would not be good for them.

While Simeon talked, Joseph and Mary just stood there, listening and marveling that such wonderful things would be said about Mary's baby.

A lady named Anna came in about that time. (Show Anna.) When she heard who this baby was, she thanked God and began to tell people that the Saviour had come. (Point to "TELL.")

Simeon and Anna did not know everything there was to know about Jesus, but God had shown them some things. What they did know they began to tell other people. (Point to "TELL.")

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

That is what God wants to happen today too. You and I do not know everything there is to know about Jesus, but we do know some very important things.

We know He is God's Son. We know He loves us. We know that when He was on the cross, He took on Himself the badness of everyone in the world. We know He came alive again and is alive in Heaven today.

So let us do what Simeon and Anna did. Let us tell others what we know. (Point to "TELL.")

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Distribute the taped paper strips, and direct the children to print "I WILL TELL" on them and decorate their headbands with glue and glitter. Fit each child's band to his head, and secure it with tape.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34).

Simeon prayed for Joseph and Mary and Baby Jesus. Then he told Mary what God had shown him about her baby. Jesus would do important things when He had grown up. He would give what was good to the people who believed He was God's Son. Others would not believe, and that would be bad for them.

Lesson Summarized By:

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CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

1. "And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was (**SAMUEL, SIMEON**), and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him." **LUKE 2:25**

TRUE OR FALSE:

2. "And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." **LUKE 2:26**

TRUE OR FALSE

3. "So he came by the Spirit into the temple..." **LUKE 2:27**

TRUE OR FALSE

4. "And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God..." **LUKE 2:27-28**

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

5. "And Joseph and His mother (**MARVELED, LAUGHED**) at those things which were spoken of Him." **LUKE 2:33**

6. "Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be (**HARDENED, REVEALED**).' " **LUKE 2:34-35**

"CALLED TO WITNESS" CROSSWORD PUZZLE (LUKE 2:22-35)

J M A L A W J O W Y K D A P Y
E U A N S W U W F O N V U F N
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U S T T Y A T E I Z M I E G E
S F T I R I P S Y L O H W N M
A J Q B A I B P F S O U L I I
L S C K G K I S R A E L K T S
E G D I Q E T T U O V E D S S
M S U S E J D L I H C P O A K
Y R Y J F T S I R H C R O F T
Y A D E L E V R A M C A D D E
R T E M P L E Q R U D Y R H F
P R O P H E T E S S N E O D Y
T S R E H Y I T N I Y R W F R
E F Q F H P E S O J J U S W N

**JERUSALEM
CHILD
JESUS
JOSEPH
SIMEON
CHRIST
JUST
SOUL
DEVOUT
LAW
SWORD
MARY
TEMPLE
HOLY
SPIRIT
MARVELED
ISRAEL**