

4. Simeon and Anna



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4

Simeon and Anna

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Simeon and Anna" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with prayer.

- *Thank God for Simeon and Anna's joy over meeting the Savior.*

- *Thank God for this opportunity for you to celebrate and praise God for Jesus today.*
- *Ask God to bless each child, naming each one.*

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #85 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Place [these Praise Maze cards](#) around the room next to sheets of paper. Invite everyone to travel from card to card, doing the different activities to praise and honor God in a variety of ways.

If you have children who can't read, consider moving through the maze as a large group. If you aren't meeting in person, place all the cards in a bowl. Pull one card out at a time, encouraging each child to do the activity at home.

Story: Simeon and Anna [Luke 2:21-40](#)

After Jesus was born, many people still didn't know that he had come! There was no Internet, no phones, no TV. News traveled mostly by word of mouth.

Let's stop and think about it: Who are the people who knew for sure that the Messiah was born?

(Pause for responses.)

That isn't very many people, is it? That means that most people were still waiting for Jesus to be born. No wonder hardly anyone paid attention when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple on this day.

Mothers and fathers often brought their babies to the temple. They did it because God asked new dads and moms to bring their babies to present them to God. That's the reason Mary and Joseph brought Jesus.

Do you think that Mary and Joseph expected the people in the temple to know that Jesus was the Messiah? Why or why not? *(Pause for responses.)*

I mentioned that hardly anyone paid attention. You might be surprised who *did* pay attention. There was a very old man named Simeon who came to the temple every day. He had been waiting for the Savior to be born for years and years. It was his heart's greatest desire to see the Messiah before he died. The reason Simeon paid attention is that God, through the Holy Spirit, had told Simeon that he would live to see Jesus. So you can be sure Simeon was watching hopefully.

On this day, when Simeon's old eyes spied Mary and Joseph and the baby, his heart jumped with joy and a smile burst out on his face. Simeon knew it was Jesus because God's Spirit told him. He greeted Mary and

Joseph and took the baby in his arms. Tears of happiness rolled down the wrinkles on his face. He praised God and said, "Now I can die in peace, Lord! I have seen the Savior you promised long ago. Glory to your name!"

As Simeon blessed them, he looked at Mary, Jesus' mom, and said, "God sent this child to do amazing things. But many people won't like it that he's come. You will suffer too."

I wonder what Simeon was thinking about when he said that. *(Pause for responses.)*

There was also one other person who knew Jesus had come as soon as she saw him arrive with Mary and Joseph. Her name was Anna. She was a very old woman who was at the temple every day. Yes, every single day. She prayed and worshiped God as she waited for the Messiah to be born. She knew when she saw the baby that the Messiah was Jesus, because God's Holy Spirit also told her.

Anna hurried over to Mary and Joseph and held her arms out as she praised God for keeping his promise. She was excited as she began to tell everyone around her that Jesus, the Messiah, was born. Praise God!

What do you think Mary and Joseph talked about as they left the temple and traveled back home? *(Pause for responses.)*

Invite kids to hear how Luke ends this story in the Bible as you read [Luke 2:40](#).

I wonder what Jesus was like when he was a little boy. *(Pause for responses.)*

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Anna Waits](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Simeon and Anna Learn about Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Simeon and Anna](#)
 - [6th-8th Grade: Christmas: Waiting on God](#)
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