

God's gift to Simeon

Luke 2:21-40

Family challenge! *(requires chocolate)*

Place a chocolate on your tongue and see how long you can keep it there without eating it! Whoever can keep it on the longest wins the rest of the bar/bag of chocolate!

This game is all about waiting. It might have felt like you waited an eternity before you got to eat the chocolate! The bible passage today about a man who had to wait a really long time to meet Jesus – but it was worth the wait!



Watch the bible story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkjbo>

Or read it below:

²¹ When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised, and he was named Jesus. This name had been given by the angel before the baby began to grow inside Mary.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the law of Moses taught about being made pure. ²³ They took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ It is written in the law of the Lord: "Give every firstborn male to the Lord." ²⁴ Mary and Joseph also went to offer a sacrifice, as the law of the Lord says: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons."

Simeon Sees Jesus

²⁵ A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man and very religious. He was waiting for the time when God would help Israel. The Holy Spirit was in him. ²⁶ The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord. ²⁷ The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do. ²⁸ Then Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

²⁹ "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said.

³⁰ I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes.

³¹ You prepared him before all people.

³² He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see. He will bring honor to your people, the Israelites."

³³ Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many in Israel will fall and many will rise because of this child. He will be a sign from God that many people will not accept. ³⁵ The things they think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart sad, too."

Anna Sees Jesus

³⁶ Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. She had once been married for seven years. ³⁷ Then her husband died and she lived alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna never left the Temple. She worshiped God by going without food and praying day and night. ³⁸ She was standing there at that time, thanking God. She talked about Jesus to all who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary Return Home

³⁹ Joseph and Mary finished doing everything that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The little child began to grow up. He became stronger and wiser, and God's blessings were with him.

Talk about it:

Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple?

Why did Simeon go to the temple?

Who else was at the temple worshipping God?

What did Simeon do when he held Jesus?

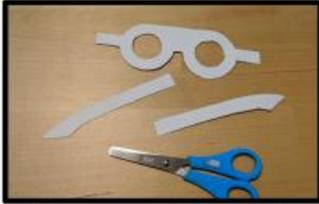


Activities:

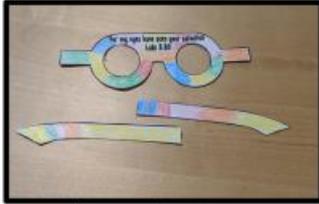
Make some memory verse glasses:



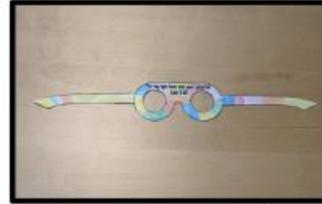
What to do



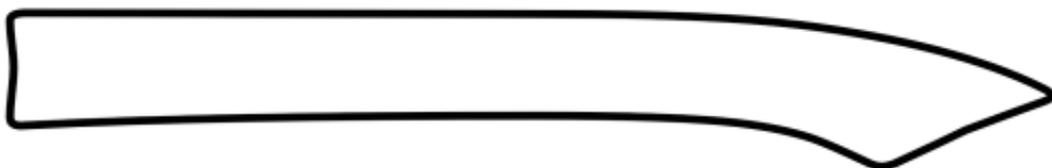
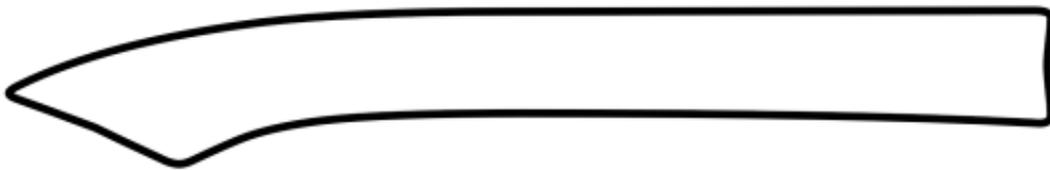
Adult: Cut out the template and holes for eyes.



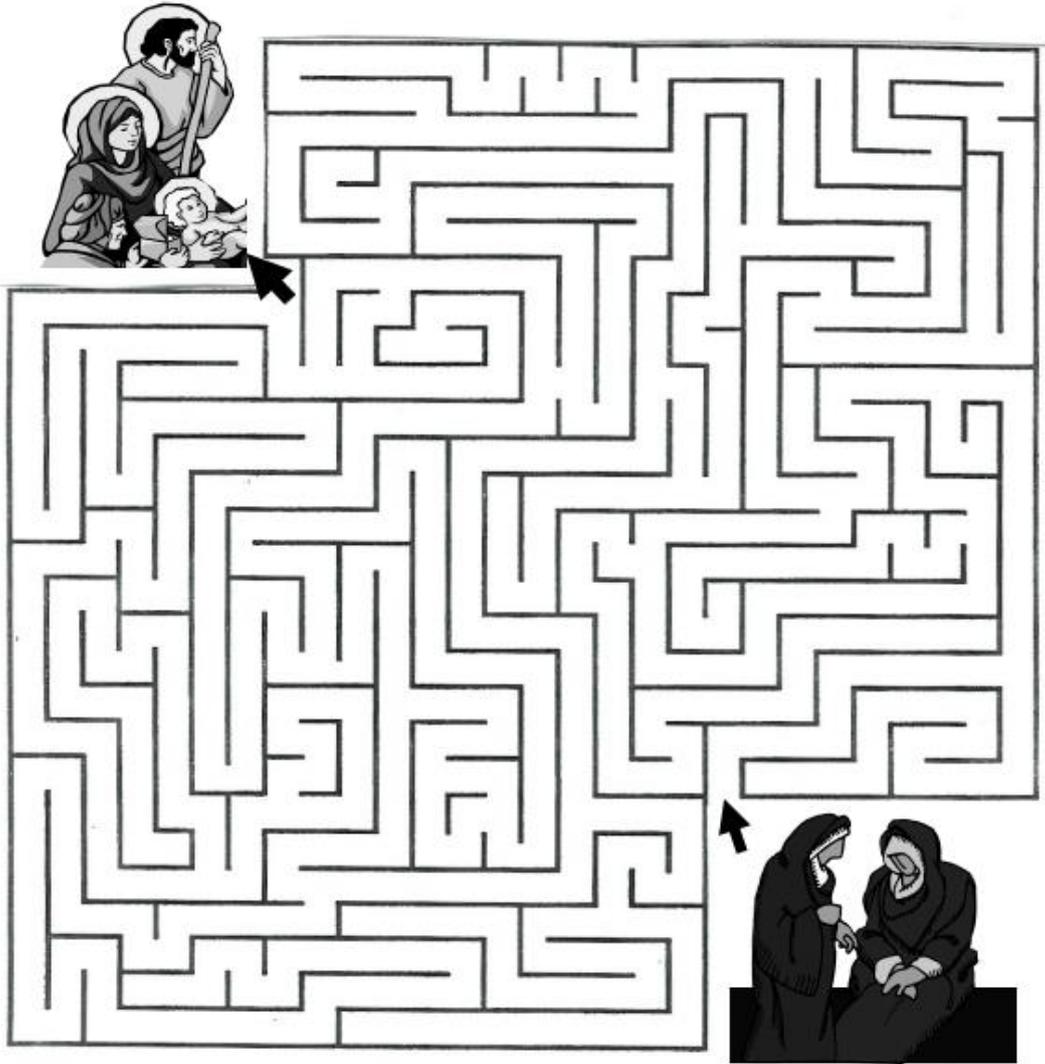
Colour in the glasses.



Glue on the arms of the glasses.



Can you help Simeon and Anna find Jesus in the temple?



“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad...” Psalm 32:11a

Colour in:



Simeon and Anna Thank God
Luke 2