

LUKE 2:22-40 *Jesus and the temple*

INTRODUCTION

As faithful followers of God, Jesus' parents took him to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. Simeon had been waiting for God to come and rescue and comfort his people. Anna too had been waiting, and when they saw Jesus in the temple that day, they both worshiped God. With the birth of Jesus, they knew salvation had come, not only to God's people Israel, but also to anyone who accepted Jesus. But Simeon also warned that not everyone would accept Jesus, and some would even be against him. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said about their son, and Jesus grew strong and wise.

DISCUSSION

Who did Jesus come for and why?

EXPLANATION

- Why did Jesus' parents take him to Jerusalem after he was born? *To present him to the Lord.*
- Why did they do that? *They loved God and obeyed his Law.*
- Who was the man they met in the temple? *Simeon.*
- What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? *He held Jesus, praised God, and sang a song.*
- What did Simeon say he saw when he looked at Jesus? *God's salvation shown to Gentiles and Jews.*
- Who else did they see in the temple? *A prophetess named Anna.*
- What did Anna do? *She worshipped God in the temple day and night.*
- How did Jesus grow up? *He grew strong and wise, and God's favor was on him.*

APPLICATION

God's offer of salvation that comes in Jesus is for everyone. But as Simeon told Mary, not everyone will believe in Jesus. What we believe about Jesus shows what we really believe about God in our hearts. When did you first hear about Jesus? What did you think? Does believing in Jesus make you want to worship him? Why? How? How does your life reflect the "light" of Jesus' salvation to those around you?

Memory VERSE

John 1:12 – "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (ESV)