

Christmas Stories with Jolly

by Jill Crowder

Simeon
and Anna
Meet Jesus



For grades 3-5

Simeon and Anna Meet Jesus

When Jesus was a very tiny baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him to the temple. They also took two birds. This was a very special thing people used to do after they had a baby. They did this to praise God for sending them a baby. The birds were offered as a sacrifice.

Jesus was an extra special baby. God had sent him to save the world and bring His people closer to Him. Jesus was the Messiah. People had been waiting for the Messiah for a very long time, but they expected him to be a strong warrior not a little baby. Most people didn't realize there was anything special about this baby, at all.

When Mary and Joseph entered the temple, a very old man came up to them. This man's name was Simeon. God had promised Simeon he would one day see the Messiah before he died. Simeon was filled with the Holy Ghost, and he knew that Mary and Joseph's baby was the precious Messiah he had been waiting to meet. Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms and prayed a special blessing over him. Then Simeon said, "Now I can die in peace for I have seen thy salvation." He knew the baby in his arms would grow up to save all the people in the world, not just his kind of people.

Mary and Joseph couldn't believe that Simeon knew all the things the angel had told them about their precious baby. They knew God was doing something special, but it was still a surprise every time they found out that other people knew about Jesus before they told them. Then Simeon turned to Mary and told her many people would

love Jesus, but there would also be many people who would hate Him. He warned her that being the mother of the Messiah would hurt her heart sometimes because of how people would treat Him.

While they were at the temple, another person came up to them who knew Jesus was an extra special baby. Her name was Anna. Anna had been living in the temple for 84 years since her husband died. She was a prophetess. She prayed and worshipped God all the time and she knew God had sent this very special baby to be the redeemer. She knew this baby would rescue her people and help make them better and closer to God.

Then Mary and Joseph said good-bye to Simeon and Anna. They took baby Jesus and left the temple.

1. Where did Mary and Joseph take Jesus when he was a baby?
2. Why did they go to the temple?
3. What did they take with them for a sacrifice?
4. What was the man's name they met in the temple that day?
5. What did God promise Simeon?
6. How did Mary and Joseph feel when Simeon knew all about God's plan for Jesus?
7. What did Simeon tell Mary would happen because she was Jesus's mother?
8. Who else did Mary and Joseph meet in the temple that day?

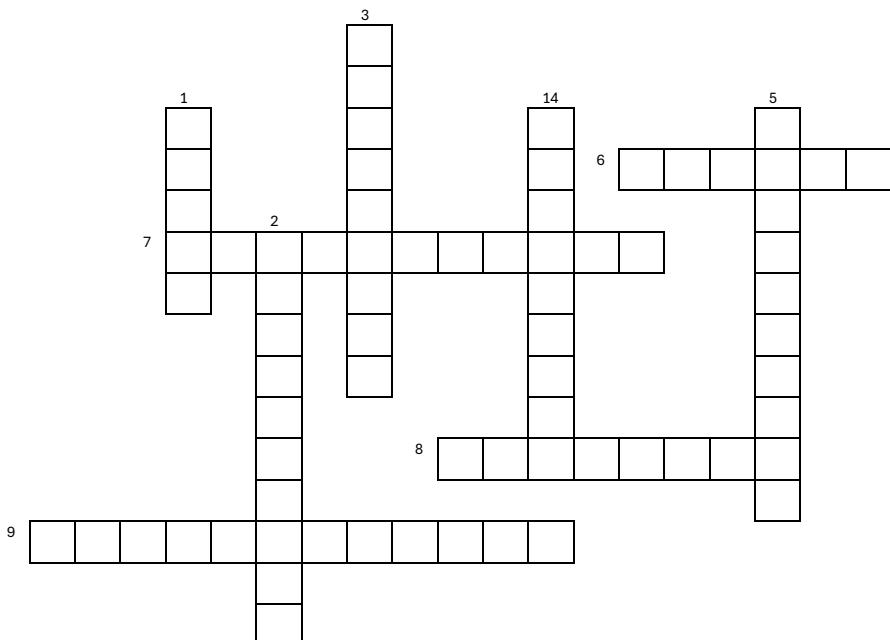
Look it Up! (All answers are KJV specific.)

DOWN

1. Luke 2:26 ...that he should not see _____, before he had seen the Lord's Christ
2. Luke 2:38 ...and spake of him to all them that looked for _____ in Jerusalem
3. Luke 2:33 And Joseph and his mother _____ at those things which were spoken of him.
4. Luke 2:30 For mine eyes have seen they _____
5. Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a _____

ACROSS

6. Luke 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall _____ through thy own soul, also)
7. Luke 2:24 ... a pair of _____, or two young pigeons
8. Luke 2:32 A light to lighten the _____, and a glory of thy people Israel.
9. Luke 2:22 And when the days of her _____ according to the law of Moses were accomplished...



In My World

Simeon and Anna knew there was something special about Jesus because of how God was working through them. When we draw closer to God we will know and understand more of what He wants us to know. There are a few ways you can grow closer to God and more knowledgeable of His will for your life. The Bible is how God communicates with us. The more we read our Bibles, the more we will understand God and His love for us. The more we surround ourselves with other Christians, the more we are going to be encouraged to keep reading, studying, praying, and seeking God. In order to grow closer to God we must read and study His word and surround ourselves with other people who love Him.

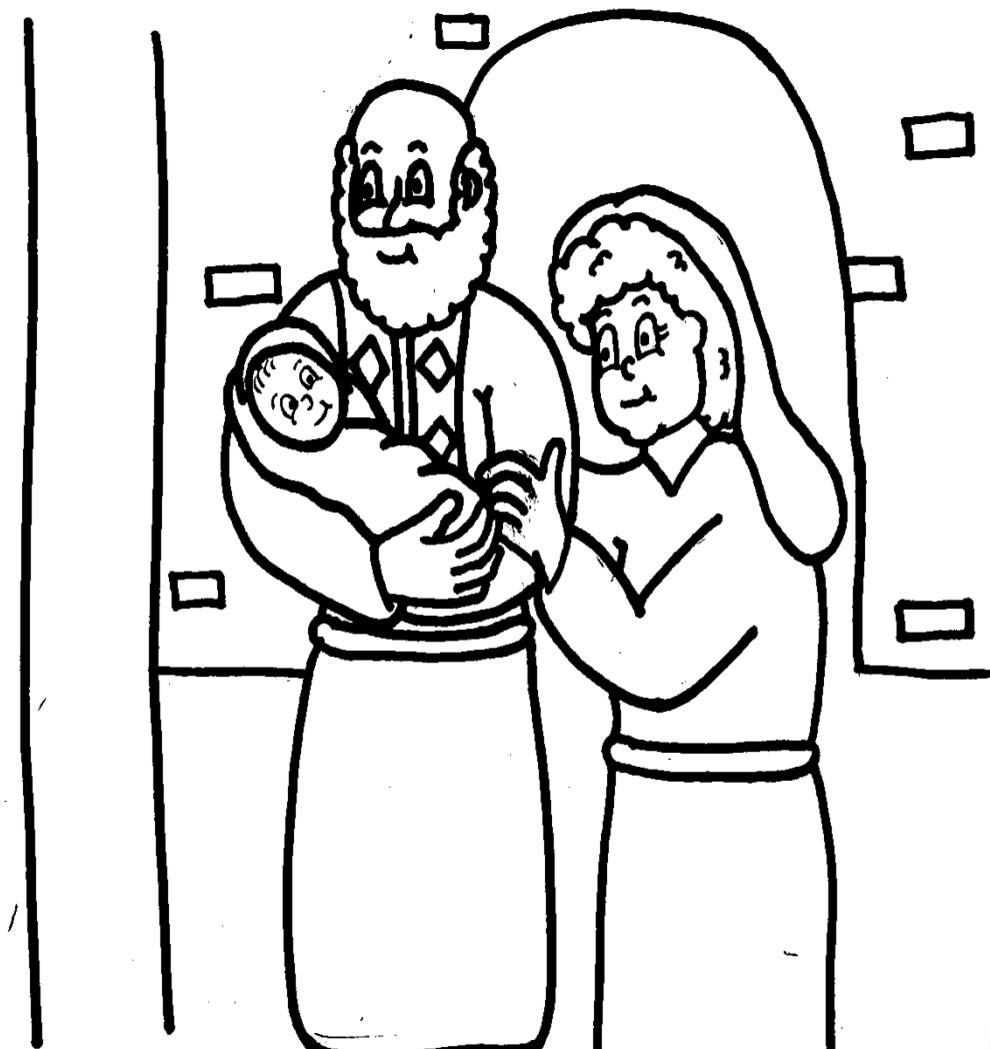
Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever been excited for something but no one else seemed to understand why it was so special?
2. Have you ever been in a situation when a Bible verse popped into your head, and it encouraged you to get through a situation?

My Prayer for You

My prayer for you is that you always want to grow closer to God. I pray that you always want to know more about Him and His immense love for you. Keep reading your Bible, even the parts that are hard to understand. God will use His word to help you through all the different parts of your life. The more you read the more equip you will be when you are going through difficult situations. Read, re-read, and then read it again. There will always be more to learn.

For mine eyes have seen thy
salvation. Luke 2:30



full. They were forced to stay in a stable for the night.

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1. The temple
2. To offer a sacrifice and praise God for their baby
3. Two birds
4. Simeon
5. He would see the Messiah before he died
6. Surprised
7. Her heart would hurt
8. Anna

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Down

1. Death
2. Redemption
3. Marvelled
4. Salvation
5. Prophetess

Across

6. Pierces
7. Turtledoves
8. Gentiles
9. Purification