



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – February 2

Malachi 3: 1-4; Psalm 24: 7.8.9.10; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-32

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord. At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the temple to do for him what the law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God: "Now, Lord you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

Reflection

Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem? (The Law of Moses required mothers who gave birth to a boy to be purified for 40 days, and after to offer to God two turtle doves as a sacrifice for their sins. (Lev. 12, 1-8) The Law also required that all first-born sons be consecrated to God. (Ex. 13,1-2) Joseph and Mary were always obedient to the law; also, they knew Jesus belonged to God and had a special mission.) **Did the Virgin Mary need to be purified from sin?** (No, Mary was born without Original Sin and she was always obedient to God and to the Law.) **What happened when they entered the Temple?** (Simeon, a just man, full of the Holy Spirit, who awaited the coming of the Messiah, recognized Jesus as the Savior. He took him into his arms and blessed God.) **How does Simeon describe Jesus?** (God's salvation which He prepared for all people; a light for revelation to the Gentiles; and glory for God's people Israel.) **From what does Jesus save us?** (He saves us from our sins that separate us from God, thus uniting us with Him again.) **How is Jesus light for all nations?** (Jesus' words and life show us the way to Heaven, teaching us how to love God and our neighbor.) **How can we shine that light with others?** (Share)

Activity

On the following page, make the candle following the instructions. Write a prayer to Jesus, the Light of the World and glue the prayer onto the candle.

Prayer

Jesus, my savior, light of the world, help me to be light in this world. Help me to be obedient like Joseph and Mary. Teach me to love like you love. I want to Shine for You and make the world better. Amen.

Song: I want to Shine, TJ McCloud, <https://youtu.be/LOqRghukqs0>





**Jesus is the Light of the World
Cardboard Candles**

- Decorate toilet paper rolls.
- Cut a circle out of yellow paper, 2" in diameter. Color a flame on each side of the middle of the circle.
- Cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " on opposite sides of the top edge of the toilet paper roll to insert the yellow circle.
- Cut out the prayer and glue onto the side with the flame in the middle.

