

Simeon and Anna – forgotten waiters

Luke 2: 22-40

When we think of the Christmas story we tend to forget about Simeon and Anna, even though they met Jesus long before the wise men!

In Jewish tradition there were two ceremonies that took place: the first was the naming of the baby (and circumcision if it was a boy) which was done by the local synnagogue leaders and the second was a purification ceremony for the mum which took place at the Temple about 40 days after the birth.

Mary and Joseph were not expecting anything out of the ordinary when they arrived at the Temple, so they must have been surprised when not one but two people approached them knowing who their baby was. Remember they came from Nazareth!

Simeon and Anna had both been separately waiting for this moment all their lives.

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

1. Our twenty-third decoration for the Jesse Tree

When you're waiting for something to happen you often have a countdown – an advent calendar is one kind, an egg-timer is another. Guess which one you're going to make!

For our timer you will need four small plastic pots – see-through would be better if possible. (You can buy shot glasses fairly cheaply in the party section at Tesco!) It would also work better if the bottoms were rounded so the sand/salt can slide out, but I think they are harder to work with in other ways! You'll need some sand or some salt, some glue or sticky tape and something sharp and pointy and probably made of metal but wider than a needle – a skewer possible. Stick two of the pots bases together. Using the sharp pointy thing make a hole through both bases at the same time. This may be easier if you get an adult to heat the skewer with a flame and push it through so it melts a hole rather than cracks the pots. Make the hole Put some sand/salt in one of the other pots and stick the double pots on top of that one, so you have one completely sealed container. Then turn it over and stick the other pot to the other end so you have one completely sealed container on top of another with a hole in the middle so the sand/salt can pass through.

Hang your timer on the Jesse Tree.



2. Coded message

Work out the code on the other page and find out what the message is.

3. Wordsearch

Find the words hidden in the wordsearch grid on the other page.

Simeon and Anna Saw Jesus Secret Code

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

A 1	H 8	O 15	V 22
B 2	I 9	P 16	W 23
C 3	J 10	Q 17	X 24
D 4	K 11	R 18	Y 25
E 5	L 12	S 19	Z 26
F 6	M 13	T 20	
G 7	N 14	U 21	

1 14 14 1

10 15 19 5 16 8

19 9 13 5 15 14

2 1 2 25

20 5 13 16 12 5

13 1 18 25

What did Simeon and Anna know?

10 5 19 21 19 9 19 20 8 5

19 15 14 15 6 7 15 4

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Simeon and Anna Saw Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	N	I	S	M	O	D
T	I	O	N	S	E	D	E	U	G	I	A	M	V	E
L	A	I	Q	U	A	T	N	G	N	S	E	C	T	E
T	E	M	P	L	E	O	R	E	L	E	L	I	Q	N
Z	R	I	T	E	U	F	E	U	G	O	I	T	V	A
L	A	O	R	E	B	O	L	O	R	S	R	T	E	Z
S	U	M	I	N	A	N	D	R	E	T	A	Y	V	A
L	I	S	I	T	B	U	L	M	A	R	Y	C	I	R
U	N	T	A	L	Y	Q	U	E	T	U	E	R	I	E
L	O	R	E	R	S	E	C	S	E	M	D	I	T	T
N	U	L	L	A	M	C	O	S	S	E	Q	U	I	H
J	O	S	E	P	H	U	S	I	M	E	O	N	A	N
D	R	E	V	E	L	E	X	A	R	I	R	I	U	R
L	A	O	R	E	M	O	L	H	R	S	I	T	E	R
S	U	M	I	N	E	N	D	R	E	T	A	N	N	A

ANNA	GLORY	JOSEPH	MARY	SIMEON
BABY	JERUSALEM	MESSIAH	NAZARETH	TEMPLE

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