

Faithful People Thank God for Jesus

Luke 2:22-40

Bible Point: We thank God for Jesus

Jesus was a tiny baby when Mary and Joseph took him to the temple for the first time. It was a Jewish custom to dedicate a family's first son to God. Mary and Joseph wanted to present Jesus to God to dedicate him to God. This was their way of saying thank you to God for giving them Jesus. While they were at the temple an old man named Simeon was there too. When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew that this was the Messiah he'd been waiting for. Simeon held Jesus in his arms and praised God for him. Simeon loved God very much. He knew God was sending a special person to save the Jews from the things that made them sad.



The Jews were sad because at one time they'd been a mighty country. But other groups of people took over their land. The Jews were also sad because, just like us, they did wrong things and needed forgiveness for their sins. The Jews were waiting for a special person called the Messiah to come and rebuild their kingdom and forgive them of their sins. God had told Simeon that Simeon wouldn't die until the Messiah came. And when Simeon saw Jesus, he knew right away that Jesus was the Messiah. The Holy Spirit told him that Jesus was the one that all of the Jews had been awaiting for hundreds of years.

When Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God for him, he said, "God, now I can die in peace because I have seen the one you sent to save us. This baby is a light that will help everyone, even non-Jewish people, see you and believe in you."



Because of Jesus, we too can know God. It's true that we're not living at the same time that Jesus was a man on earth, but we do know a lot about God and Jesus because of what we learn at Sunday school and in the Bible. Just like Simeon, we can say thank you to Jesus by recognizing who Jesus is and the good things he does. And we can thank God for Jesus anytime, anywhere.



While Mary and Joseph were at the Temple, they also met an old woman named Anna. Anna loved being at the Temple because she loved to worship God. It didn't matter if people came to the Temple early in the morning or late at night—no matter what time they came, they would find Anna praying and

worshipping God there. When Anna saw Simeon with Mary and Joseph and Jesus, she came right over and gave thanks to God for Jesus. She, too, knew that Jesus was the special Messiah God had promised. Then Anna started telling everyone in the temple that Jesus was the Messiah. Anna knew Jesus was good news—the best news ever.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus. We thank you because he's strong and powerful, kind and loving. We thank you because he helps us, cares for us, and saves us. Jesus is a good gift. We want to be thankful for him every day.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank You God Mobile:



Supplies:

Paper plate
Glue stick
colored & white paper
string or yarn
Hole puncher or tape
Cup for tracing circles
Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Instructions:

Cut a paper plate in half and write the words “**Thank you God for...**” in the center of the halved plate. Punch a hole in the top center of the halved plate. Cut out 4 colored paper triangles and glue them around the top edge of the plate. Next cut out 4 circles out of white paper. (**Tip:** fold paper in thirds, then in half again to make a rectangle. Trace a circle on top and cut it out -you will have

many circles to use!) Draw or write four things you are thankful to God for on the circles. Some ideas are: Baby Jesus, Medicine, Family, Technology. Using string or yarn hang the 4 circles from the bottom edge of the plate using tape or punch four holes.

Hang up your mobile with some string or yarn. God is always glad when we show we're thankful to him, just like he was glad when Simeon and Anna were thankful in the Temple!

