

THE CHILD JESUS



Passage to Study: Luke 2:21-52

Read with the class: Luke 2:21-30, 41-52.

Text for memorization:

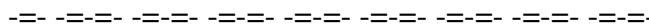
Younger: Luke 2:40.

Older Luke 2:40.



OBJECTIVES:

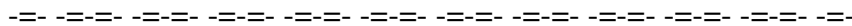
1. To show how Mary and Joseph were careful and asiduous keepers of the law of Moses.
2. To consider the significance of the prophecies uttered by Simeon on the steps of the Temple about Jesus.
3. To explain the meaning of Simeon’s prophesies and show their fulfillment.
4. To consider the early evidence of the Deity of the Lord Jesus when He instructed older men in the Temple.
5. To consider the exemplary willing obedience of the Lord Jesus as a child being submissive to Mary and Joseph



SCENE No. 1. In the temple.

DEVELOPMENT OF LESSON:

- Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the priest so that he can perform the rite of circumcision on the eighth day as the law required.
- Cns. It was most important they be careful to observe this rite since it forms part of what God required. Nothing was left undone so that years later no one could say that something was missing in what had to do with the Lord Jesus. Gal. 4:4.
- On the day of his circumcision, the name of the child was registered officially: Jesus.
- Apl.** Months have passed since Joseph and Mary were instructed as to the name they were to give the child that would be born. There was no change of mind on their part, only obedience.
- When the time arrives for the purification rites to be carried out, Mary and Joseph go to the temple to fulfill the law.
- This was to take place on the fortieth day after birth. When a boy was born, forty days were required, and when it was a girl, eighty days, according to the law of Moses.
- Cmt.** Joseph and Mary were prompt in putting Moses’ law into effect.
- Apl.** Parents ought to be concerned, not only about the education, clothing and feeding of their children but also to carry out what God requires and teach their children His truths.
- Cns.** This spiritual concern of Joseph and Mary dated from the time when the angel announced to them that Jesus would be born.
- The Lord Jesus is carried into the temple and there they are met by Simeon and Anna.
- Simeon makes a prophecy about the child while Anna goes away to make known to all that the Redeemer has come.
- Joseph and Mary’s fear of God is noteworthy as they carry out all that is required by the law.
- That they are poor is evident in the offering they bring. See the provisions in Lev. 12:8
- Offerings were required due to the need that sinful creatures have to draw near to God.



SCENE No. 2. (Part 1) Mary and Joseph standing on the steps of the Temple with Simeon.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON:

(Simeon’s words here are in capitals, and each phrase could be written out for the children to see. If figures can be found to illustrate what is being said, the lesson will be understood more quickly.)

Cmt. The teacher should take up each of Simeon’s statements for they contain important and interesting teaching as well revealing the knowledge he had of divine things.

THE CHILD JESUS



LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE

<<A figure of an older man who represents Simeon>>

Cmt. Simeon would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. In other words he was saying, “I am now ready to die.”

Apl. No one is ready to die until he/she has known Christ as Lord and Saviour.

ACCORDING TO THY WORD

<<A figure of a Bible to represent the Word of God>>

Cmt. Simeon does not base his declaration on his own feelings, but on what God had revealed.

Cns. The teacher should stress that the hope held by one who has trusted Christ is based on truth revealed by God in the Bible.

Sug. Nowadays there are those who speak of relativism, the theory held by people who say, “if something is truth to you, that’s fine; if the opposite is truth to me, that is fine as well.” Those who hold this idea believe that there is no absolute truth. We who are Christians know that absolute truth is to be found in the Bible.

FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION.

<<A figure of eyes superimposed on a heart>>

- His physical eyes had seen Jesus, the Saviour, and his heart had understood. While his physical eyes saw Jesus, his heart also saw and believed.

- “Thy Salvation” is a name that belongs to Christ Jesus. The words are addressed to God.

Apl. Faith is exercised in the heart.

WHICH THOU HAST PREPARED BEFORE THE FACE OF ALL PEOPLE.

<<A figure of a group of people, and if from different ethnic origins, all the better>>

- His salvation was not only for Israel but also for the whole world, looking ahead into the future.

A LIGHT TO LIGHTEN THE GENTILES

<<An additional figure of a light used with the foregoing showing the multitude being illuminated>>

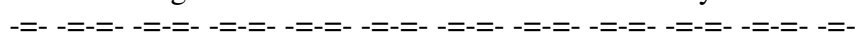
- Through the Son of God, the Gentiles are enlightened as to God’s love for them.

AND GLORY OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL

<<A map of Israel, perhaps with Jerusalem included to indicate the site of future glory>>

The restoration of Israel is intimately united with the glorification of the Lord Jesus, their Messiah.

Cmt. If young people are acquainted with the Middle Eastern problems, mention could be made of those existing between Israel and the Arab world today.



SCENE No. 2. (Part 2). Mary and Joseph still on the steps of the Temple with Simeon.

- Joseph and Mary are amazed at what Simeon is saying.

- His prophecy about Mary shows that she was going to be present at the crucifixion. “(He) said unto Mary, his mother” Simeon did not address Joseph.

Cns. The following quotes directed to Mary were fulfilled some thirty-three years later. At the time they were spoken, she would not know how much time would pass before the event prophesied would take place.

Cmt. Some believe that Joseph was no longer living at the time of the crucifixion.

BEHOLD THIS CHILD IS SET FOR THE FALL AND RISING AGAIN OF MANY IN ISRAEL.

<<Six figures to represent three people who “fell” and three who were “lifted”>>

- The rich young ruler, Judas Iscariot, and the unrepentant thief were some of those who “fell”.

- Zaccheus, Paul, and the Samaritan woman were raised up because of their relationship with Christ.

