

Jesus is The One Everyone Had Been Waiting For

FOR THE TEACHER:

This week's lesson focuses on Jesus being presented in the temple when he was an infant. Simeon prophesies to Mary and Joseph that Jesus is the long awaited savior and gives them an insight into the pain that he will endure, and that Mary will suffer with him as his mother. This story is a good chance for the kids to think about how the world was waiting for a savior to come and how the Jewish people had been entrusted with God's promise that he would send a savior.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: The gift. Put each kids name in a cup. Then give each kid a chance to draw a name. Make sure they keep the name hidden. If they draw their own name, have them put their piece of paper back and draw a new name. Tell the kids they are going to prepare a present for the person they have drawn.

Depending on the age of the children, here are some ideas of gifts the kids could make for their person:

- Paint paper cups or Styrofoam cups or small flower pots. Then fill it with candy and/or small toys.
- If you have more time or have older kids, have them make friendship bracelets or key chains.

Once they are done with the activity, have each child place their gift in a different spot around the room. Once all the gifts are complete and placed in a special place, tell the kids that they will have to wait to get their gift. For now, we will learn about another very special gift that people were waiting on.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 2:22-35. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

22When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

** What nationality is Jesus? He is Jewish, from the tribe of Judah in the nation of Israel.*

**What is the nation of Israel? A special group of people the Father gathered together to create a place where Jesus could be born.*

**Who did the Father send to tell Israel about himself? Moses*

In the law that the Father gave to Moses to give to Israel it said that first born Jewish boys, like Jesus, had to be presented to God at the temple

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

*29"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
30For my eyes have seen your salvation,
31which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
32a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."*

The Jewish people knew that someone would come to save the world from death because the Father had promised them that he would send a savior. The Holy Spirit is telling Simeon that the baby Jesus is the one that everyone has been waiting for to come and save the world from death.

33The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

The Holy Spirit is telling Simeon that Jesus will have a painful life and Simeon is telling Mary that, as his mother, she will experience that pain with him.

PRIMARY LESSON: Everyone in the world had been waiting for someone to come and save us from death. Jesus is that person.

SECOND ACTIVITY: The gift, part 2. What is it like to wait for a present or something special? Have you ever had to wait days and days for something you've wanted? See if the kids can name some things they have wished for in the past or thing they currently want. Ask, "how do you think the Jewish people felt having to wait and wait for Jesus to be born? How do you think they felt when they realized He was born?" Now it's time to share our own gifts to each other. One at a time, have a child tell whose name they drew and then lead that person to the gift. Then have the person who received the gift tell who their person was and then they can lead that person to their gift. Keep doing this until all the gifts have been passed out.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son to become the man Jesus so that we can live with you forever. Thank you, Jesus, for being willing to suffer pain like we do so that you can be with us and we can be with you. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that Jesus saves us all from death. In Jesus' name, Amen.