



PROMISES KEPT

Lesson 4



SIMEON WILL SEE THE MESSIAH

Scriptures

Luke 2:21-35

Memory Verse

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
Numbers 23:19

The Promise: "In Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." Luke 2:25-26 (NirV)

The Promise Kept: Did you know that long ago God promised not just the nation of Israel the Messiah, but He promised a single individual that he would see the Messiah before he died? His name was Simeon. Can you imagine living every day hopeful that this might be the day? Well, it happened like this . . .

Joseph and Mary, as Jewish parents, were required by Jewish law to do certain things after the birth of Jesus. One of those things was circumcision, a procedure for baby boys that happened eight days after they were born. Another requirement was purification for the mother. You see, Mary was considered unclean after Jesus was born and the law required her to go to the temple and offer a sacrifice. And, because Jesus was the first born, He would be dedicated back to the God who had sent Him.

For the purification and dedication, Joseph and Mary would have traveled from Bethlehem, where they had moved into a house (Matthew 2:11), to Jerusalem where the temple was. They would have done this 40 days after Jesus was born. At the temple, Joseph and Mary offered their sacrifice.

When Joseph and Mary entered the temple with their new born baby, Jesus, (Emmanuel, "God With Us") something amazing was happening. You see, God's Spirit hadn't been in the temple for nearly four hundred years! But God, in a human baby body, had just entered with His earthly parents!

This is where Simeon comes in. The Bible tells us that Simeon "was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true." (Luke 2:25 NirV) "The Spirit led [Simeon] into the temple courtyard." (Luke 2:27 NirV) It's almost as if "it was whispered in his ear, 'Go to the temple now, and you shall see what you have longed to see.'"

"Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God, 'Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me. With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people, and foreign nations will also see this. Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honor to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:28-32 CEV)

Joseph and Mary were so surprised by all of this! It's not quite what they expected when they went to fulfill the law for purification and to dedicate Jesus.

PROMISES KEPT

Lesson Goals

- To understand that God promised Simeon he would see the Messiah before he died.
- To understand that God directed Joseph and Mary to the temple for Jesus' dedication.
- To understand that God keeps His promises

Life Application

God had a plan for Simeon. He would see the Messiah! Do you know that God has a plan for you?

His plan is for you to know Him. That is only possible through the baby Jesus who was born so long ago.

He didn't remain a baby. He grew and willingly gave His life for you so that you could have life with Him forever.

Once you know God, His plan for you unfolds as you read your Bible and pray and walk in obedience to Him. The Bible says that the plan God has for you is a plan "for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

Have you given your life to God? Have you told Him that He can be in control? Aren't you ready to surrender to the plan He has for you?

Then, Simeon blessed the two of them and told them things that would happen in the future. He said that Jesus would cause many in Israel to fall, but that others would stand. He even told Mary that many people would reject Jesus, but that she "would suffer [one day] as though [she] had been stabbed by a dagger." Do you know what that means? Simeon was talking about this baby boy's death on the cross one day and how it would cause Mary pain. Jesus is barely 40 days old and His purpose for coming is strong in the heart and prophecy of Simeon. Did you notice what he mentioned when he praised God? He talked about Jesus' birth being what God had done to save His people. He even talked about how foreign nations would see, as well! This is how God would bring people to Himself...through Jesus.

God loved Simeon and kept His promise to him. God loves you, too. He loved you and me so much that He sent the baby Jesus, who would one day be nailed to a cross. He did it so that if you and I will believe, we can have eternal life!

Review

What was God's promise? (Simeon would see the Messiah.)

Did God keep His promise? (Yes.)

How did God keep His promise? (By sending baby Jesus to the temple with His parents for His dedication)

What happened when they arrived at the temple? (The Holy Spirit caused Simeon to go to the temple at the same time.)

What did Simeon say about this child? ("With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people and foreign nations.")

*Matthew Henry Commentary on Luke 2. http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Luk/Luk_002.cfm?a=975022

Preschool Lesson

An Idea

Bring a baby doll wrapped in a blanket to class today. Talk about how small baby Jesus would have been.

After the lesson, talk about what Simeon said. Pass the baby doll around and talk about how baby Jesus grew into the One who died on the cross for each of us.

Did you know that long ago God promised a single individual that he would see the God's Son before he died? His name was Simeon. Can you imagine living every day thinking that this might be the day you got to see God's Son? Well, it happened like this . . .

Joseph and Mary had to go to the temple after Jesus was born. They went to dedicate Jesus, because He was the first born. He would be dedicated back to the God who had sent Him to Joseph and Mary.

Joseph and Mary had to travel from Bethlehem, where they had moved into a house (Matthew 2:11), to Jerusalem where the temple was. They did this 40 days after Jesus was born. At the temple, Joseph and Mary offered their sacrifice.

When Joseph and Mary entered the temple with their new born baby something amazing was happening. You see, God hadn't been in the temple for nearly four hundred years! But God, in a human baby body, had just entered with His earthly parents!

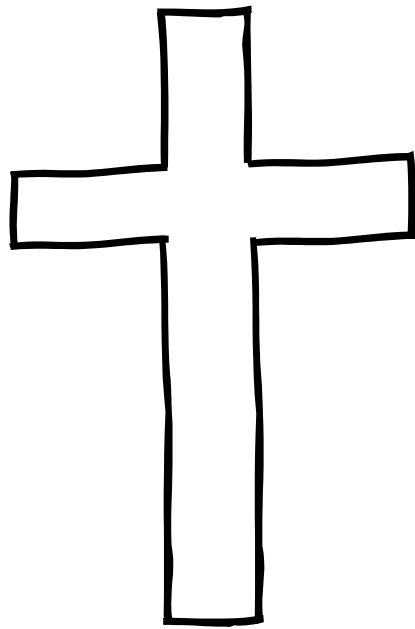
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Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. He understood that Jesus was how God was going to save His people. Jesus is only 40 days old and people are already thinking about his death. This is how God would bring people to Himself...through Jesus when He died on the cross for your sins and for mine.

God loved Simeon and kept His promise to him. God loves you, too. He loved you and me so much that He sent the baby Jesus, who would one day be nailed to a cross. He did it so that if you and I will believe, we can have eternal life!

Activities

- If you made a Jesse Tree this Christmas season, look at each of the ornaments you've made and review the stories...and promises.
- Distribute blank index cards to your students. Encourage them to write a Scripture Promise on their card. Talk about how they can live confidently in the fact that God will keep that promise. You might encourage them to print Numbers 23:19 on the reverse side of their Scripture Promise Card. (God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19)
- Re-enact the Lesson.
- Discuss God's plan of salvation. Walk through the Roman Road or any other plan you are comfortable with.
- Use a series of coloring pages to order the story or provide coloring pages from each previous week to order. Discuss how God kept His promise to each one.



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so he does not lie.

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he does not change his mind.

Has he ever spoken
and failed to act?

Has he ever promised
and not carried it through?

Numbers 23:19

WORD SEARCH

i r n l e a n g j e s u s
t p c p e s i m o o p s e
i r o r n i n a b l u y e
l o m o p r o m i s e a t
u m f m u p t b e t s b h
f n o i t a c i d e d a e
e p r s t a e a n m e g m
c a t e o n t n g p d o e
a f y n o s o s e l g b s
e t d e i e e b k e p t s
p h a l m s p i r i t p i
n r y i p a t i e n t s a
t e s a l v a t i o n o h

Jesus

dedication

temple

forty days

Simeon

see the Messiah

salvation

promise

kept

WORD SEARCH

i r n l e a n g j e s u s
t p c p e s i m o o p s e
i r o r n i n a b l u y e
l o m o p r o m i s e a t
u m f m u p t b e t s b h
f n o i t a c i d e d a e
e p r s t a e a n m e g m
c a t e o n t n g p d o e
a f y n o s o s e l g b s
e t d e i e e b k e p t s
p h a l m s p i r i t p i
n r y i p a t i e n t s a
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