

# Baby Jesus in the Temple

**Luke 2:22-40**

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born.

They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord, just as the Law of the Lord says, "Each first-born baby boy belongs to the Lord." The Law of the Lord also says that parents have to offer a sacrifice, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons. So that is what Mary and Joseph did.

At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Simeon was a good man. He loved God and was waiting for God to save the people of Israel. God's Spirit came to him and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. 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."

Jesus' parents were surprised at what Simeon had said. Then he blessed them and told Mary, "This child of yours will cause many people in Israel to fall and others to stand. The child will be like a warning sign. Many people will reject him, and you, Mary, will suffer as though you had been stabbed by a

*Storyteller:* ... Jesus was born in Bethlehem, *lay the baby down in front of the children,* and laid to sleep in a manger. *Put Mary next to the baby* His mother was Mary, *put Joseph next to Mary* and her husband was Joseph.

*Place Jesus into Mary's arms.* Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph did what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born. They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord.

*Place the doves into Joseph's arms.* The Law of the Lord also says that parents have to offer a sacrifice of two small birds. So that is what Mary and Joseph did.

*Place Simeon (in a stand) a little distance away.* At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. *Move Mary and Joseph to the centre of the underlay.* When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. *Move Simeon over beside Mary and Joseph.* When Simeon saw Jesus, he prayed "Lord, now let me die in peace, for with my own eyes I have seen how you will save your people: a Light to give light to all people, and glory to your people Israel.

*Place Anna with the rest of the group.* The prophet Anna was also in the temple. She was eighty-four years old, and served God in the temple night and day, by prayer and fasting. When she saw Jesus she praised God, and she told everyone about him.

**Story Materials**

- wire-armature dolls:
  - Simeon
  - Anna
  - Mary
  - Joseph
  - Baby Jesus

dagger. But all this will show what people are really thinking."

The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. In her youth she had been married for seven years, but her husband died. And now she was eighty-four years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating.

At that time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free.

After Joseph and Mary had done everything that the Law of the Lord commands, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. 40 The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him.

After Mary and Joseph had done what the Law told them to do, they returned to Nazareth. The child Jesus grew, and became strong and wise, and God blessed him.