

# Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany  
(Candlemas)

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Jesus being presented in the temple.

You can find it in your Bible in:  
**Luke 2 v 22–40**

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

**The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:**

Malachi 3 v 1-5  
Psalm 24  
Hebrews 2 v 14- 18

## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus being presented in the temple and the people he met there. Thank you for Simeon who reminds us that you keep your promises and that you sent Jesus to be a Saviour for all people.

We pray for all our friends and family who don't yet know you as their Saviour. We pray that they would come to know you as their Saviour and friend.

Amen

## Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

*Why were Mary and Joseph amazed at what Simeon said?*

Even though Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was sent from God all they had read in scripture about the Messiah said he was coming to rescue the Jewish people. Simeon revealed God's much bigger plan, Jesus had been sent to be a saviour for all people, Jewish and gentile!

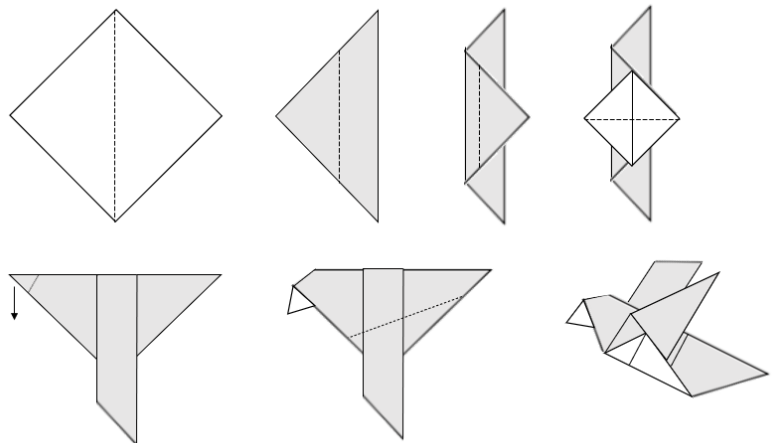
A question for children to ask adults

*What is something you have always wanted to see?*

"Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord." God knows the desires of our hearts. This year has seen us miss out on many of the things we wanted to do and see, why not spend some time bringing these things before God in prayer.

## Family Activity 1

In the story Mary and Joseph had to bring an offering to the temple. Use the simple template below to fold your own origami dove or pigeon from a square of paper.



Doves are a symbol of peace and a reminder of God's promises. You could add your own prayers for peace to your dove.

## A verse to remember



### Romans 10 v 11–12

As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.” That Scripture says “anyone” because there is no difference between those who are Jews and those who are not. The same Lord is the Lord of all and gives many blessings to all who trust in him,

Read these verses from Romans together, they remind us that Jesus came to be a saviour for everybody. Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

### Active Prayer

*“In Jerusalem lived a man named Simeon who was a good man and godly. He was waiting for the time when God would take away Israel’s sorrow, and the Holy Spirit was in him.”*

Just like Simeon we can pray and ask God to take away our sorrows and those of the world. In Psalm 56 v 8 it says that God collects and keeps track of our tears. Try this prayer activity to share your sorrows with God.

**Fill up a glass of water at the sink. As the glass fills tell God all the things that are making you feel sad either out loud or in your head.**

**Then gently pour the water away and ask God to comfort you and be near to you.**



You could complete the activity as individuals or spend some praying together that God would also take away the sorrows of the world.

### Family Activity 2

God had promised Simeon that he would see the Saviour before he died, Anna once she had seen Jesus couldn’t stop telling people about Him! Why not test your own looking and telling skills with these games...

#### Spot the difference

*You will need – a tray of random items from around the house, a towel or scarf*

Lay a range of items from around your house on a tray or table, give everybody 1 minute (or less) to memorise as many objects as they can. Cover over the objects with the towel and remove one item, but make sure nobody can see what you have taken.

Who can be first to work out which item is missing? Take it in turns to be the person who removes an item and see who can get the most points.



#### I-spy

Play a game of I-spy together, can you guess the item that has been chosen? Older children could guess based on the starting letter, younger children might find it easier to guess based on colour or shape.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

# Romans 10 v 11-12

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That Scripture says "anyone" because there is no difference between those who are Jews and those who are not. The same Lord is the Lord of all and gives many blessings to all who trust in him,

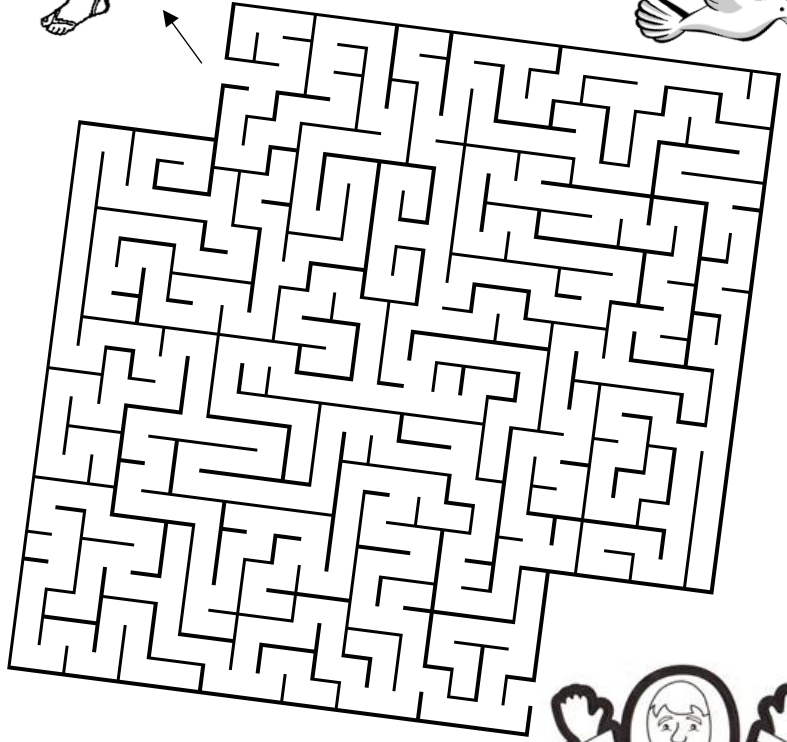
# PUZZLE SHEET

How many doves can you find on the page?



Can you find all these shapes hidden in the picture?

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



Can you find these words from the story in the word search?

Anna	Holy Spirit	offering
Simeon	Jew	temple
Jesus	gentile	promise
Joseph	saviour	
Mary		

Can you help Anna find her way through the maze to meet Jesus?

