

# Rhythms of Grace Worship • Epiphany-The Presentation of Jesus • Year 3

## The Story of Anna and Simeon at the Presentation of Jesus

**Theme:** The Story of Anna and  
Simeon at the Presentation  
of Jesus

**Scripture:** Luke 2:22-40

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Volunteer Roles:**

**Facilitator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Storyteller** \_\_\_\_\_

**Celebrant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Center Leader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guide** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Items needed for this Session**

**Gathering:** Story cards from Epiphany yr. 1-cards 1 and 3; Story cards from Christmas yr.3-cards 2-6, masking tape

**Storytelling:** Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling page, felt board, felt figures for Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, Anna, Simeon, turtle doves, and a temple.

### **Response Activities:**

**Rituals or ceremonies-** 2 or 3 sets of pictures of rituals from Resources and others you create to use as a match game.

**Making Doves-** cut outs of doves, white feathers, glue

**Blessing Practice-** see Resources for directions to place on wall to practice blessing yourself.

**Praising God-** Last verse of Hymn 43 printed on a posterboard or (use printed verse in Resources), index cards with each word from verse printed on a card.

**Regathering:** “Did You Hear” game, *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

**Eucharist:** altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

**Dismissal:** *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

# **Sessions Plan • Epiphany-The Presentation of Jesus • Yr. 3**

## **The Story of Anna and Simeon at the Presentation of Jesus**

**Gathering:** Post the story cards in story order on the walls. Story card order: Yr 3- 2,3,4,5,6 then Yr. 1-1 and 3. Put tape on the floor as the story walk guide. Have leaders walk with the participants and tell the story until the end which will bring you to today's story of Anna and Simeon.

**Storytelling:** With the Bible and Jesus doll, Storytelling page, felt board, felt figures for Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, Anna, Simeon, turtle doves, and a temple, tell the story of the Presentation.

### **Response Activities:**

**Rituals and Ceremonies-** play a match game. When participant matches the cards have them tell you what the person/people are doing.

**Making Doves-** with the dove forms, feathers and glue have participants make feathered doves.

**Blessing Practice-** with the Resource form on the wall in front of the participant have them practice blessing themselves.

**Praising God-** Using the last verse of hymn 43 poster have participants put the notecard words in correct order and if they can sing the verse, if not just say the verse.

**Regathering:** "Did you Hear" game- Participants sit in a circle. Leaders tells person to the right something which that person tells the person to their right going around the circle. The leader tells the group what she/he heard from the last person and what she began with. Continue for a few tries then, singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

**Eucharist:** Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God  
Gather our thoughts, oh God  
Bring us together around you

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Dismissal:** All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: "*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*"

Participant: "*Thanks be to God!*"

## **Storytelling • Epiphany-The Presentation of Jesus • Yr. 3**

### **The Story of Anna and Simeon at the Presentation**

*Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller along with the felt board, figures, and temple.*

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Today's story is shortly after Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph were both part of the family of God. Just as we do, they had traditions and rituals (things they always did to mark something special). This is a story about one of those traditions and what happened during it.

(*Place the temple on your felt board*) Mary and Joseph, following the traditions of their faith went to the Temple, remember that is like our church, in Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord. Following the tradition, they had with them a sacrifice of two turtle doves (*place Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the turtle doves next to the temple*).

There was a man at the Temple named Simeon (*place Simeon on the felt board near the temple*) who was a very holy man, full of the Spirit of God. God had told him that he would not die until he saw the promised Messiah. As Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus into the temple, Simeon knew that this baby was the one God had sent and promised to be the Savior. He (*move Simeon close to Mary and Joseph*), went to Mary and Joseph, took Jesus into his arms (*place Jesus in his arms*) and praised God. He said, "Just as you have promised, oh Lord, I have seen your salvation. He went on to tell Mary and Joseph how Jesus would reveal God to the world. He also told them that Jesus would be misunderstood and that she, Mary, would go through pain and heartache. They were both speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon then spoke a blessing on Jesus and his mother and father.

There was also a prophetess (a woman prophet) named Anna who was also at the Temple (*place Anna where Simeon had originally been placed*). She was very old and her husband had died many years ago. Anna was always there at the Temple too, worshiping day and night and praying. When she saw Jesus (*move Anna close to Jesus*) she began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for Jerusalem to be saved.

When Mary and Joseph finished everything required by God they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. They kept in their hearts everything that had happened and all that was said by Simeon and Anna. There Jesus grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

Amen!

*After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.*