

God's Story Our Story

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**Simeon
and Anna**

January 1, 2017

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

O Lord, sometimes we encounter you in unexpected places. May we meet you with joy and honor you in our speaking and acting. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

Simeon took [Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Luke 2:28-33

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Only eight days old, and Jesus is already making waves in the temple. Two long suffering servants, Simeon and Anna, are about to have the moment for which they have spent their lives waiting.

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

If we pay attention, we might recognize Jesus in unexpected places in the new year.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Simeon and Anna*, Luke 2:21-38

Monday: *Purification of a Woman after Childbirth*, Leviticus 12:1-8

Tuesday: *The Law Concerning Dedication of Firstborns*, Exodus 13:1-16

Wednesday: *Levites Become Substitutes for Firstborns*, Numbers 3:40-51

Thursday: *God's Servant*, Isaiah 42:1-9

Friday: *The Boy Jesus Is Found in the Temple*, Luke 2:39-52

Saturday: *Laws Concerning Festivals*, Exodus 23:10-17

What kinds of rites and rituals are tied to infants in Jesus' day?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Where do you see Jesus in the world? Where would you like to see Jesus in the world?

What's the meaning of your name? Do you have a title or an identity? How does your name, title, or identity shape how behave in the world? How does it shape how people treat you? How can you honor your family name? How can your name honor you?

DO: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Volunteer to work in your church's nursery. While you are there, pay attention to each child. Get to know their name and who their parents are. If they are infants, sing to them. If they are toddlers, play with them. If they are preschoolers, find out their favorite color, animal, and song. Praise God for the gift of children.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you with wisdom to share with future generations. Amen.