



WEEK 4

AT HOME LESSON



BIG IDEA

We can celebrate because God keeps promises.

THE BIBLE

Simeon and Anna at the Temple: Luke 2:25-38

MUSIC | Celebrate and Worship

INSTRUCTIONS: Show or play some songs for worship time. It's time for Christmas Songs! Try something like: [Joy to the World \(Unspeakable Joy\)](#), [O, Come All Ye Faithful](#), [Light of the World](#)

QUESTION | Promise?

- Have you ever made a promise?
- Have you ever broken or had a hard time keeping a promise?

THE BIG IDEA | We can celebrate because God keeps promises.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write down one word of the Big Idea on small slips of paper and place them inside balloons. Then blow each balloon up without tying it, and hand them out to kids to hold on to tightly. On the count of three, let it go! Have kids chase down each balloon, retrieve the paper, and read the word aloud. See if they can piece it together.
- Today's Big Idea: **We can celebrate because God keeps promises!**

VIDEO | Main Event, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:25-38

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to draw the Bible story from Luke 2:25-38 as you read it aloud. Give them a few moments to finish their drawings after you've finished reading.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Give Explicit Vocabulary Instruction before the story begins. Important words and phrases might include: "see the Messiah," "receive"



glory," Temple, and Prophet. Have pre-cut visuals of the characters and setting of the story, such as Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Simeon, Anna, temple, and have kids glue the items on to paper as you're telling the story.

- **If someone saw your drawing, do you think they would know today's Bible story?** These are very good drawings, but you would probably need to explain the story.
- **Briefly explain the story to someone next to you.** [Give students a couple of minutes to do this.] **Was your story something like this?**
- Once, there was a man who loved God and was very obedient. He waited his whole life to see Jesus because God promised the man that he would. Finally, Mary and Joseph came to the temple with Jesus, and Simeon praised God! God promised Simeon would see Jesus, and here Jesus was right before his eyes! Simeon spoke God's promises over what Jesus would do when he grew older.
- In the temple, there was another person who loved God and was very obedient. Her name was Anna, and she was what is called a prophet, or a someone who speaks for God. Anna loved the temple so much, she hardly left it! She was always celebrating God, and with Jesus there, she had even more reason to praise God. She, too, spoke God's promises over Jesus.
- Both Simeon and Anna were excited to have finally met the Savior that God had promised to the people of Israel all those years ago. And they knew that God would keep the promise to save all the people!

DISCUSSION

- **What promise had Simeon been waiting for?**
- **What did Anna do when she saw Jesus?**
- **Why were Simeon and Anna so happy to see Jesus?**
- **Read Luke 2:38. What do you think the "redemption of Jerusalem" means?**
- **What are some promises you have made to your family or friends? Did you keep it?**
- **Why do you think it's important to keep the promises you make?**
- **What promise did God fulfill to us by sending Jesus?**

POLL | Simeon or Anna?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids the following questions, and have them decide whether it pertains to Simeon or Anna. If they think it's Simeon, have them go to the left side of the room. If it's Anna, to the right. If both, stay in the middle. Feel free to reread Luke 2:25-38 for the kids to help them with this activity.
- God promised that this person wouldn't die until they met the savior. *(Simeon)*
- This person was very old. *(Both)*
- The Bible says this person was a prophet *(Anna)*
- This person spoke about the things Jesus would do one day. *(Both)*
- This person never left the temple. *(Anna)*
- This person lost their spouse after being married to them for only seven years. *(Anna)*
- This person took baby Jesus into their arms. *(Simeon)*
- This person praised and gave thanks to God. *(Both)*



ACTIVITY | Ten-Second Draw

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids ten seconds and ask them to draw a picture of a tree, a sun, and a lake. Ask them to stop when the timer goes off.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Choose harder words and/or make the stakes a bit higher by adding a "prize" for whomever finishes, to emphasize the activity.
- **How does it feel to imagine something, start creating it, but then having to stop and not finish?**
- Sometimes, this is how life can be if left up to us, but God knows how everything will turn out and when the promises God makes us will be answered! It's our job to be patient and wait like Simeon and Anna!

PRAYER

- God, help us to trust and celebrate You when we learn about Your promises to us. Sometimes, we may have a hard time seeing Your promises. We know You keep Your promises and we thank You for caring about us.

ACTIVITY | Promise Tree

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids paint a paper plate with green paint. While you wait for the paint to dry, have kids look up some of God's promises in their Bibles (from a list you can compile beforehand like [this one](#)). Then, have them cut their paper plate into thirds and have them write out the Bible verse they like best on one of the triangles. That will be the top tier of their Christmas tree. Glue the other two triangles under the first one, but with the edges sticking out. Attach a craft stick to the bottom, and let kids decorate with stickers, glitter, chalk markers, etc. For more detailed instructions, check out [this site](#).
- Did you know that a long time ago, people used to put evergreen trees that look like this in their homes during winter time to show their hope for spring to come? When you at look your tree, you can remember that God keeps promises and show your hope for God to do just that!

MEMORY VERSE | Popsicle Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write out one word of the memory verse on each popsicle stick. Pass them out to the kids, and tell them to take turns stacking the popsicle sticks in order on a table. You can also use Velcro and encourage the kids to put them up on a Velcro board.