

# CHRISTMAS

# HEROES

OF THE

# FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

5

## SIMEON SEES THE LORD

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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# **SIMEON SEES THE LORD**

## **Memory Verse:**

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him. He is good to those who look for Him.  
(Lamentations 3:25 ERV)

## **Lesson Goals:**

#1 - Understand how ordinary Simeon was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Simeon to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

## **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

## **Scripture to Study:**

Luke 2:21-40



5

# SIMEON SEES THE LORD

Luke 2:1-20

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Simeon

**His Heroic Feat:** Waits on the Lord

Waiting on the Lord may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Do you remember that Zechariah prayed and God answered his prayer and gave him a son? Mary believed that God would do what He promised and that she would give birth to the Son of the Most High God. Joseph obediently married Mary and when the Roman government required everyone to go to their ancestral towns, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, David's town. Jesus was born while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem.

When Jesus was just forty days old, Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem. The Bible tells us that forty days after the birth of a baby, the mother is required to make a special sacrifice of purification, so Joseph and Mary went to the temple to make the sacrifice. They were required to offer a lamb and a turtledove, or pigeon. If a lamb was too expensive for the family, another turtledove, or pigeon, could be offered. Joseph and Mary offered a pair of turtledoves.\* They didn't have enough money to buy a lamb to sacrifice, but they had something more important. They had in their arms the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world! While they were in Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary also wanted to dedicate Jesus by presenting back to the Lord the baby He had given them.

What Joseph and Mary didn't know was that "in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man." (Luke 2:25a NIV) The Holy Spirit was with Simeon. He was waiting for God to keep His promise to Israel to send the Messiah, because the Holy Spirit had told him that he wouldn't die until he had. Simeon had waited many years. On the day that Joseph and Mary were going to the temple, the Holy Spirit led Simeon into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought Him into the temple. "Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, 'Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen Your Salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all people. It is a light to be given to those who aren't Jews. It will bring glory to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:28-32 NIV)

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what they heard. Simeon blessed them and then told Mary that some people would accept and follow her son and some wouldn't. He also told Mary that something would happen that would make her heart sad. Whether he knew it or not, Simeon was pointing to Jesus' death on the cross.

"Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required. Then they returned to Galilee. They went to their own town of Nazareth." (Luke 2:39 Nlrv) Jesus grew up to be a strong boy. "He was very wise and God's goodness was upon Him." (Luke 2:40 Nlrv/ NCV)

Simeon faithfully waited on God to keep His promise. Our memory verse says, "The LORD is good to those who wait for Him. He is good to those who look for Him." (Lamentations 3:25 ERV) Have you looked for Him? Have you made Jesus a part of your life, accepting that He came to be born and die for you? Won't you do that now?

You know, we don't wait on the Lord quite the same way Simeon did. Simeon was waiting for Jesus to come and he saw it happen. But you and I have a promise to hold on to, though—something to wait for. Jesus has promised to return! His return is just as sure as His coming! Are you faithfully waiting, living a godly life as Simeon did while you wait for His return?

\* Jamieson, Robert; A.R. Fausset; and David Brown. "Commentary on Luke 2." . Blue Letter Bible. 19 Feb 2000. 2012. 19 Dec 2012. <[http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm\\_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2881&commInfo&topic=Luke&at=Luk\\_3\\_27](http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2881&commInfo&topic=Luke&at=Luk_3_27)>

### ***YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!***

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Simeon waited on the Lord.

Are you waiting on the Lord? Are you waiting for His return? Our memory verse says, "The LORD is good to those who wait for Him. He is good to those who look for Him.." (Lamentations 3:25 ERV) We can follow Simeon's example. He lived a good, godly life while he was waiting for Jesus' birth. Will you commit to live a good, godly life while you wait for His return?

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Simeon

**His Heroic Feat:** Waits on the Lord

Waiting on the Lord may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Do you remember that Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to sign a list? Jesus was born while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem.

When Jesus was just forty days old, Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary went to the temple to make the sacrifice to God. While they were in Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary also wanted to dedicate Jesus by presenting Him to the Lord.

What Joseph and Mary didn't know was that "in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man." (Luke 2:25a NlrV) The Holy Spirit was with Simeon. He was waiting for God to keep His promise to Israel to send the Messiah, because the Holy Spirit had told him that he wouldn't die until he had. Simeon had waited many years.

On the day that Joseph and Mary were going to the temple, the Holy Spirit led Simeon into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought Him into the temple. "Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, 'Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen Your Salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all people. It is a light to be given to those who aren't Jews. It will bring glory to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:28-32 NlrV)

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what they heard. Simeon blessed them and then told Mary that some people would follow her son and some wouldn't. He also told Mary that something would happen that would make her heart sad. Whether he knew it or not, Simeon was pointing to Jesus' death on the cross. "Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required. Then they returned to Galilee. They went to their own town of Nazareth." (Luke 2:39 NlrV) Jesus grew up to be a strong boy. "He was very wise and God's goodness was upon Him." (Luke 2:40 NlrV/NCV)

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on manger templates or stars or even clouds (alluding to Jesus' return).
- Add the last hero's name and heroic feat to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Amazing Love," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Go Tell it On the Mountain," "Joy to the World" or other Christmas songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Make craft-stick crosses. On small swags of construction paper print "My eyes have seen Your salvation. Luke 2:30." Attach the swags to the crosses.
- **For more training:** In light of Simeon having waited for Jesus' birth and you and I now waiting for His return, read and discuss 2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 1:7, Psalm 33:18, and 2 Peter 3:1-15a.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss our memory verse, Lamentations 3:25 and Isaiah 40:31.
- **For more training:** Discuss the mention of salvation throughout our Christmas lessons. (Remember, the name **Jesus** means "God saves.") Zechariah-Luke 1:67-79; Mary-Luke 1:31, 46-48; Joseph-Matthew 1:18-25; Jesus' birth-Luke 2:8-12, 21; Simeon-Luke 2:25-30

The LORD is good  
to those  
who wait for Him.

He is good  
to those  
who look for Him.

Lamentations 3:25

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## ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Simeon Sees the Lord

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:**

Luke 2:21-40

**Memory verse:**

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him. He is good to those who look for Him. (Lamentations 3:25 ERV)

**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our hero do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 1:20-21 and Luke 2:11, 30. Why was Jesus born?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Read Lamentations 3:25 and fill in the blanks. Who waited faithfully to see Jesus? (Read the Hidden Message in the gray column.)

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L	A	M	E	<b>N</b>	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	3	:	2	5

WORD

SEARCH!

N	F	V	J	J	P	T	A	T	G	F	H	B
L	T	I	B	A	B	Y	J	E	S	U	S	B
U	I	R	S	L	I	H	G	M	A	R	Y	A
T	R	G	E	H	M	D	E	P	A	R	P	B
E	I	I	P	P	A	A	L	L	N	E	M	Y
H	P	E	S	O	J	R	O	E	E	V	I	F
L	S	H	O	S	R	I	F	S	B	E	N	R
S	E	E	N	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N
S	H	L	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	E	D
W	T	D	Y	Y	A	U	E	R	P	G	M	G
S	Y	B	E	E	R	H	L	I	S	F	I	O
U	B	A	D	E	Y	H	O	F	I	O	S	D
L	D	B	D	S	S	E	R	I	A	N	E	W
E	E	Y	O	V	I	D	D	C	T	N	A	W
J	L	L	A	S	T	D	M	E	S	S	M	G

- Joseph
- Mary
- temple sacrifice
- baby Jesus
- dedication
- Simeon
- led by the Spirit
- held baby
- seen salvation

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Read Lamentations 3:25 and fill in the blanks. Who waited faithfully to see Jesus? (Read the Hidden Message in the gray column.)

I H E L O R D I S G O O D I O I H O S E  
W H O W A I I F O R  
H I M H E I S G O O D I O  
I H O S E W H O  
L O O K F O R H I M .  
L A M E N T A T I O N S 3 : 2 5

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

N	F	V	J	J	P	T	A	T	G	F	H	B
L	T	I	B	A	B	Y	J	E	S	U	S	B
U	I	R	S	L	I	H	G	M	A	R	Y	A
T	R	G	E	H	M	D	E	P	A	R	P	B
E	I	I	P	P	A	A	L	L	N	E	M	Y
H	P	E	S	O	J	R	O	E	E	V	I	F
L	S	H	O	S	R	I	F	S	B	E	N	R
S	E	E	N	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N
S	H	L	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	E	D
W	T	D	Y	Y	A	U	E	R	P	G	M	G
S	Y	B	E	E	R	H	L	I	S	F	I	O
U	B	A	D	E	Y	H	O	F	I	O	S	D
L	D	B	D	S	S	E	R	I	A	N	E	W
E	E	Y	O	V	I	D	D	C	T	N	A	W
J	L	L	A	S	T	D	M	E	S	S	M	G

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