

Ministry @Home



CANDLEMAS

These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son,
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the
world
and gives me strength.

Together:
We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,
The end
and the Everlasting one.

Welcome.....

Song: Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI302Av7vSI>

(can be sung or listened to)

Reflection time: Preparation – have a box prewrapped or a picture of a gift. Place the wrapped box/picture within your gathering but do not let anyone touch it. Ask those who you are gathered with what they think might be inside? Do they suspect it's something special, nice, a surprise? Explore together what it is like to wait for something, how does that make you feel, do you become frustrated if you have had to wait a long time or does the excitement build? Is it hard to wait or worth the wait? Today we are exploring the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple. At the temple there were two special people who had waited a very long time to see Jesus. They had faithfully waited for the best gift of all.

Bible passage: Read Together **Luke 2.22-40**

AND/OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrjbo>

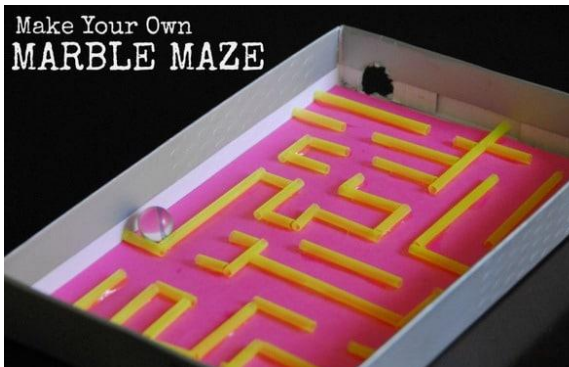
Read from different translations and bibles translated for different age ranges.

Jesus is like a light that shows us the way within our lives. Simeon had waited a long time for Jesus to be presented at the temple and understood the significance and understanding of Jesus being a light, a light that brings life, deep joy & hope into our lives. This was the first time that Jesus was recognised as the Messiah (saviour of the world) However, there was also the challenge that we must be ready to change and follow Jesus teaching. Simeon warned Mary & Joseph in the temple that people would not want to hear Jesus words or example of how to live because it would mean changing. Jesus was sent into the world because it was not as God wanted it to be, we are not always the people God wants us to be and our challenge is to listen to God, follow Jesus example of being the light in the world.

Interactive Learning.....

Temple Maze.....

Resources: Cardboard box, paper, glue, straws, scissors, and marbles. Glue a sheet of paper into a box and arrange the straws to create a maze for the marbles to run around. In one corner draw a picture of a temple with Simeon and Anna close by and in the other corner at the start of the maze draw Jesus with Mary & Joseph. Once the straws are glued in place you can begin to play the temple maze of getting the marble from Jesus' family through the temple to Anna & Simeon. You could add a few holes along the way of the maze for more fun of keeping the marble in the temple. Whilst playing discuss how Anna & Simeon felt on the day they eventually saw Jesus. I wonder if they were amazed, overjoyed??



Pancakes.....

In Belgium they make pancakes to celebrate Jesus being presented in the temple, also known as Candlemas.



Spend time together making and eating Pancakes! There are many recipes to experiment with.

Self Portrait.....

Resources: Paper, mirror, or photos of gathered people, any art materials or mediums, magazines, glue.....

Take a A4 piece of paper and fold into quarters. Unfold the paper and you have four quarters.



In each quarter write one of the following: What I like to do, How I help others, What is important to me & What is special about me. Below or around these words write the answers. When you have finished adding words and sentences turn the piece of paper over and draw a self-portrait. This can be drawn or a collage – be creative!! Share with each other your portraits and what you think is 'special' about yourselves. Remind each other that in God's eyes we are all special and we are all God's children.



LEGO.....

Recreate the story using Lego & explore the questions below or make a Lego movie.



Whilst creating chat about the following questions & Share stories.....

- **I wonder why Anna & Simeon wanted to see Jesus.**
- **Why did Anna & Simeon praise God for Jesus?**
- **I wonder how Anna & Simeon felt as they meet Jesus**
- **Is being dedicated to Jesus something you could consider or think about?**

Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: We The Kingdom – Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZeJKsko14E>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

Use the video clip above to explore the themes of Jesus being our light and enter a time of prayer using the themes. Pray for each other as we respond to God's challenge of following Jesus example & dedicate ourselves to him.

Encourage members to read silently or aloud their prayers. Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God's richest blessings
Be showered on you.



Closing.....

The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.**

Closing Responses.....

Song: Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are
to where you need us.

Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.

Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world
look more like your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on!

**Ask different members to blow out the
candles.....until you meet again**

Extra Ideas

- <http://www.spiritualchild.co.uk/candlemasunder5s.html>
- <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/tammy1141/bible-jesus-presentation-at-temple/>
- <https://www.illustratedministry.com/>
- <https://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-presented-at-the-temple-lesson/>
- Make finger puppets and retell the story
- Build a temple with building blocks place your names on the blocks representing belongng to God