

Jesus is presented in the Temple



Set up the temple with Simeon and Anna out of sight - behind the temple.

Have Mary, Jesus and Joseph a little way outside the temple so that they can come to it.

Today we are going to tell another story of some people Jesus met soon after he was born.

They were not important people, but they loved God very much. They were both very old and had waited to see Jesus all their lives. They were rewarded by meeting him.

Light the candle and read from the Scriptures (Luke 2:22-38)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord", and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Bring Mary, Jesus and Joseph to the Temple.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Bring Simeon next to Jesus

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him 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. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Bring in the figure of Anna and stand her next to Jesus.

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Move all the figures back to where they came from.
Extinguish the candle.

I wonder...

...how Mary & Joseph felt when they heard these things

... how Simeon and Anna felt when they saw Jesus

... how they knew that Jesus was special