

Children's Church at Home 31 January 2021 Epiphany 4

The presentation of Christ at the Temple. Luke 2:22-40

Craft ingredients: paper, scissors, pens, and / or plastic spoons, scraps of fabric, maybe some wool, elastic bands, pens, paper and scissors or marker pens which will work on plastic.

First: when you were born, your parents probably had an idea of what they would like your life to be like. But they couldn't know! We're going to read a story from when Jesus was a baby and a couple of old people who knew who he was and had an idea of what was going to happen to him!

Story: Luke 2:22-40

[Luke 2: 22-40 ERV - Jesus Is Presented in the Temple - The - Bible Gateway](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/leN-xNrkJbo>

Think: have you been baptised? (people often call it christened) lots of families have a baptism or dedication for their babies when they're quite small, some people decide to be baptised when they are older: children and adults. It's a service where the person is dedicated to God. The vicar uses special oil to trace the shape of the cross on the person's forehead and says 'Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of the cross.' Then the vicar uses some water that has been specially blessed and splashes a little on the person's forehead as a sign of a new beginning and becoming a part of God's family. You can even have a total immersion baptism, like Jesus did with John the Baptist! That means you go completely under water, in a pool, a river or the sea!

Well, when Jesus was a baby, his parents took him to the temple to dedicate him to God. The service was a bit different in those days, of course! And two old people spotted him and knew straight away that he was very special. Two old people who had completely devoted their lives to God. And God had given them particular insight into who Jesus was and what his job would be on earth. Simeon knew that Jesus was going to have an extra-ordinary life, and he had a message for Mary too. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Anna was so excited! She went off to tell everyone that the Messiah was here!

Anna and Simeon had dedicated their lives to God and God had plans for them, just as he had for baby Jesus. He has plans for each of us, and he wants good things for us. We can ask him for help and tell him our worries and wishes, but we may

have to wait a while for his promises to happen. In the meantime, we can dedicate our lives to him. But how?

Craft: let's make a special place to keep our hopes and plans and questions and wishes for the year. Wondering what to write? What about 'I hope to read the Bible every day, I want to pray every morning, I will try to see Jesus in everyone, I want to dedicate myself to Jesus, I'd like to get on better with ... , please make ... well, please keep my family healthy, why do I feel sad or angry sometimes? Help me to understand maths, help me to write better stories ...'

If you want to, you can make spoon people to act out the story too.

Activity: do you have playing cards? Play concentration. Shuffle and spread all the cards out face down on the table between the players. Take it in turns to turn over 2 cards. If they match, keep them and have another go. If not, turn them back over. Now it's the next person's turn. The winner has the most pairs.

Prayer: Father God, you hold my life and my future in your hands and you have special plans for me. That's very exciting! Thank you for looking after me and loving me! I know I can ask you for anything and that you keep your promises, but please show me the right things to ask for! Amen.

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