

# Advent Week 3: The Hidden King

Simeon, Anna, and the joy of recognizing Jesus

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 3:54 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus when Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple.

**Learning goals** Recall the Temple visit; explain why Simeon and Anna rejoiced; and notice a quiet act of love that matters to God.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask whether something important always looks impressive. Watch who recognizes the baby Jesus without a royal parade.

## Watch and notice

Notice Mary and Joseph's humble offering, Simeon holding Jesus, Anna's thanksgiving, and the reflection on hidden acts of love.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple?

They followed the law and presented him to God. They brought the humble offering of birds.

### 2. Who recognized Jesus there?

Simeon and Anna, who had waited in faith and prayer. They rejoiced that God's promise was being fulfilled.

### 3. Does being unnoticed mean being unimportant?

No. The reflection connects Jesus' hidden life with quiet obedience, prayer, and love that God sees.

### 4. How could you show quiet love today?

Help without seeking praise, listen kindly, or include someone. These acts serve others even when no one applauds.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

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**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

## Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Draw Simeon or Anna welcoming Jesus at the Temple. Then draw a quiet way you could help someone. Accept an oral explanation.

**Read & Write** Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

## Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

## The kindness no one applauded | Optional 4 minutes

Recall Simeon and Anna recognizing the humble child. On a folded card, draw an ordinary act of love on the outside. Inside write why it matters even without applause. Choose one quiet act to do; do not use the exercise to compare children's goodness.

**Look for understanding** Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to quiet faith and joyful recognition.

**Closing prayer** Jesus, help us recognize you with faith and rejoice in your love. Teach us to love even when no one notices. Amen.

**At home** Ask an adult about a quiet helper in your family or parish and thank that person.

**Handout answer notes** Simeon and Anna recognized the promised Savior. Quiet actions vary; accept specific helpful choices without a demand for recognition.

## Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. The Gospel account is Luke 2:22-38. Jesus' sacramental presence in the Eucharist differs from his presence through another person's kindness; people are not disguised consecrated hosts.

**Words to explain** Presentation: bringing the child Jesus to the Temple. Prophetess: a woman who speaks God's message. Eucharist: Jesus truly present under the appearances of bread and wine.

## Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Background: [Luke 2:22-38: Simeon and Anna](#)

# Recognizing the Hidden King

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Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus when Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult helper** Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

## 1 Draw Simeon or Anna welcoming Jesus at the Temple.



## 2 Draw a quiet way you could help someone.



**Tell** What did Simeon and Anna recognize? Why does your quiet action matter?

**Pray** Jesus, help us recognize you with faith and rejoice in your love. Teach us to love even when no one notices. Amen.

**At home** Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

# Joy with eyes of faith

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Simeon, Anna, and the joy of recognizing Jesus. Remember, explain, and respond.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Remember

Who recognized Jesus in the Temple?

*The people were ...*

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## 2 Explain

Why did they rejoice?

*They rejoiced because ...*

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## 3 Respond

What quiet act of love could you choose?

*I can quietly ...*

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**Pray** Jesus, help us recognize you with faith and rejoice in your love. Teach us to love even when no one notices. Amen.

**Go deeper** What might we miss if we only notice people who look powerful or famous?