

The Encounter (Presentation, Meeting) of Our Lord, Feb 2, Lk 2:22-40

Opening Prayer: Heavenly King/Царю Небесний. *See prayer posters.*

Gospel: [Luke 2:22-40](#) ←Click to follow link

Or listen to the Gospel (https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/letusattend/february_2_2014_luke_222_40_told_for_younger_children)

Lesson: Recognizing Jesus

Before Jesus grew up and went around the country teaching about God's love, He was a baby like any other baby. He didn't look any different from other baby boys. But, when Jesus was brought into the temple to be dedicated to God, two very holy people recognized that Jesus was no regular baby. Do you remember their names? Simeon and Anna! They recognized Jesus as the Saviour and the light of the world! We bring candles to bless on this holy day to remember that Simeon said Jesus will be a light to the Gentiles (that's us!).

Why do you think they were they able to recognize Jesus? They were filled with the Holy Spirit! *Discuss what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. One is close to God, and able to understand what God wants from them in their lives. One can see what God is doing in the world and can feel His presence. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see things differently.*

What did Simeon and Anna do to become so filled with the Holy Spirit that they knew that God wanted them to go to the temple that day and that they could recognize Jesus? *They spent lots of time in the temple, worshipping God, fasting, and praying and opening their hearts to listen to the Holy Spirit.*

For us sometimes it's hard to recognize Jesus in our lives. But did you know that Jesus is inside of everyone?! Everyone we meet – whether they are children, old, poor, or sick – is an image of Jesus on earth. This means that we need to treat everyone as if that person is Jesus. The Holy Spirit can help us with that. We must worship God, pray and fast as much as we can and ask the Holy Spirit to help us see Jesus in others and love them. *Discuss ways that the children can add more of these things to their lives. Share some of the things that you do that open you to the Holy Spirit and bring you closer to God.*

Craft: Presentation of Our Lord Stick Puppets. [Instructions and template here](#)

In Church: Find all the icons where Jesus is a baby. Look around at all the people and pray a special prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you see Jesus in everyone you meet.