

# Simeon Blesses Jesus

**Theme:** We keep promises.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:22-40

It's almost the beginning of a New Year. Since it's a brand new year, people often start by making a New Year Resolution. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves, being realistic and specific, that we are going to do certain things. Some suggestions are:

- I will get exercise four days of the week, either indoors or outdoors
- I will spend one hour reading 5 days of the week.
- I will do three chores around the house each week to help my family
- I will clean up things in my room each week by Saturday night.
- I will tell my Mom or Dad the high and the low of the day before going to sleep.
- I will ask my brother/sister to forgive me after we fight.

Can you think of one thing that you might promise?

Some people don't take a New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they're just promises to yourself. We might think that if we don't follow through, it's no big deal. But it is a big deal! Don't promise unless you really want to be accountable. A promise is a promise and it's important to keep your promises--even if it's just a promise to yourself.

Maybe think of something important enough to make a promise about this year. Write a word or quick symbol on a piece of paper to say what that promise is.

The Bible tells about a very important promise God made to His people. Thankfully, God is always faithful in keeping His promises. We learn in the Bible about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had waited his whole life to see God's promise come to himself and to God's people. God had promised to send a Messiah or savior to the world, and God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to God. Simeon was in the temple as usual. As soon as Simeon saw baby Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

Anna was a prophet who was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshiping and praying. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she praised God and told everyone that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised.

Today, as we're about to begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping His promises, we can be faithful in keeping our promises. Talk about a promise you might make and post it in a place you won't forget. It's easy to make a promise but not as easy to follow through. Family members can help each other to keep a promise, and we can ask for God's help too.

Dear God, just as You're faithful in keeping Your promises, help us to think carefully and be faithful in keeping our promises. In Jesus' name, amen.