

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 7 • Week 4

ANNA AND SIMEON

OBJECTIVE:

To learn through the story of Anna and Simeon that the meaning of faith is belief without apparent physical evidence.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: Have you ever believed what your parents told you even though you couldn't prove that it was true?

Why do you believe them?

Ask: Do we believe everything the Bible says without having actual physical evidence or proof available?

Ask: What is that called? [Faith.]

BIBLE LESSON:

Supplies: Red crayon
Blue M&M candies

Say: The definition of the word faith is to have complete trust and belief without apparent physical proof.

Ask: Does anyone know what the word "proof" means? [Listen to any responses, then continue.]

Say: "Proof" is the evidence that something is real or true. For example, if I tell you that I have a red crayon in my hand, the proof would be to show it to you.

Do: Show the red crayon, explaining that showing it is proof that what you said is true.

Say: If I tell you that I have some blue M&Ms to share with you, the proof would be in doing so.

Do: Give each of them a blue M&M candy,

Ask: Do you see how proof is in the evidence you see? You could see that I had a red crayon in my hand and that I had blue M&Ms to share with you.

Do: Read Luke 2:25-35 and/or the paraphrase below.

Say: God promised Simeon that he would not die before he would see the Savior. One day Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of God's Son, Jesus Christ, brought the baby Jesus into the temple.

Simeon was in the temple and saw the baby Jesus. God made Simeon realize that this baby was the Savior of the world. Simeon took the baby Jesus up into his arms and blessed God saying, "Now I can die in peace because I have seen the Christ who is to be our salvation. He will bring understanding and truth to all people."

This was the proof that what God had promised Simeon was true. Before seeing the Christ, Simeon had to believe without the physical evidence.

This is what we call faith. Simeon had faith before he ever saw Jesus Christ.

Now there is another person who had faith that I want to tell you about.

Do: Read Luke 2:36-38 and/or the paraphrase below.

Say: Anna was an elderly woman who had lived only seven years with her husband when he died. After her husband died, Anna spent a lot of time at the temple. Year after year she honored God at the temple until she was very old. She loved to spend her time fasting and praying, all day and night.

One day Anna saw Simeon with the Christ child. She was so excited that she told everybody about the Messiah. Seeing Christ was the proof of God's promise. Up until that time she had faith in the promise that God would send a savior to the world. Now she had proof.

Ask: Is there a time that we must have faith in what we are told? [Allow them to answer.]

Say: The Bible teaches us that Christ will return to the earth one day. We must have faith that what the Bible says is true. Our faith proves to us that it is true, but the physical evidence will not come until He returns. Until then we will live with the faith that He will come again because God, through His Word, the Bible, says that Jesus will return.

The more we read God's words in the Bible, the more we will understand. And with understanding, comes faith. We have faith that what God says about our future is true.

Ask: Can we see what is going to happen tomorrow?

Say: No, not physically with our eyes. But we have faith that the sun will come up in the morning and that the moon and stars will come out at night.

Ask: Do we have proof, today, that Christ will return to save the world? Many people today don't believe that. But can we have faith that He will return in the future?

Say: Yes, we can have faith because we have already proven that what God tells us in His Word will happen. God says that Christ will return to rule the world someday. We know that it is true because God tells us so in the Bible, and we have faith.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Crayons
Gold star stickers (optional)

Prepare: Draw a large picture of a Bible on a piece of paper. Copy so there will be one for each child.

Do: Have each child draw a picture with the sun, moon and stars on their Bible worksheet. Next have them color their pictures. As an option, you may bring gold star stickers for the children to put on their papers.

Explain: Just as we trust and have faith that the sun, moon and stars will come out tomorrow, the Bible teaches us that we can have faith that Jesus Christ will return one day to bring peace and salvation to the world.

Music:

Sing to the tune of "Three Blind Mice."

We can't see.
We can't see.
But we know.
But we know.
God will send Jesus to save the world.
Jesus will come, and He'll save the world.
Yes, Jesus will come and He'll save the world.
This is faith.
This is faith.

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 1:17 "The just shall live by faith."

Do: Rehearse the memory verse a few times with the children repeating it. Form a circle. Take a small beanbag or balloon and toss it to one of the children. Have them try to say the verse or as much of the verse as they can and then toss the bag to someone else. Give everyone a turn.

family activity

THE POINT:

To learn through the story of Anna and Simeon that the meaning of faith is belief without physical proof.

ASK ME...

- What does it mean to have complete trust and belief without apparent physical proof?
- Why can we believe what the Bible tells us?
- What is as sure as the sun, moon and stars?
- Why did Anna and Simeon think they would see the Messiah?
- Can we believe what we can't see with our eyes?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a family discussion about faith. Be sure to discuss how your children can count on you and how you can count on them.

Discuss evidence that helps you to have faith in God.

What are some of the ways that you can "prove" that God has been working in your family?

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the backside. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)