

SPELL IT OUT!

M R S D Y N L
B U A H P J
T I G O E

Like Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna, we can rejoice because Jesus has been born. Use the letters on the cubes to spell out as many words as you can from the Christmas story. You can use letters more than once. We spelled out 11 words. How many can you find? Write your words on the lines.

M _ R _
J _ _ P _
B _ _ L _ _ _
S _ _ B _ _
M _ _ _ E _
J _ _ U _ _

A _ N _
B _ B _
S _ _ P _ _ _
S _ _ _ O _
A _ _ E _ _



GOD'S AMAZING GIFT



Joseph and Mary named their boy Jesus when He was eight days old. Later, they took Jesus to the temple to dedicate¹ Him to God.

saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation.



SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT

**Luke 2:25-30,
36-38**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous

and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law² required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God,

¹According to God's law, the firstborn son was dedicated to the Lord for service. This was done 40 days after the child was born.





What was God's promise to Simeon? What did Simeon mean when he said, "My eyes have seen your salvation"?

²The law required a sacrifice. The usual sacrifice was a lamb. If the family couldn't afford a lamb, they could bring a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

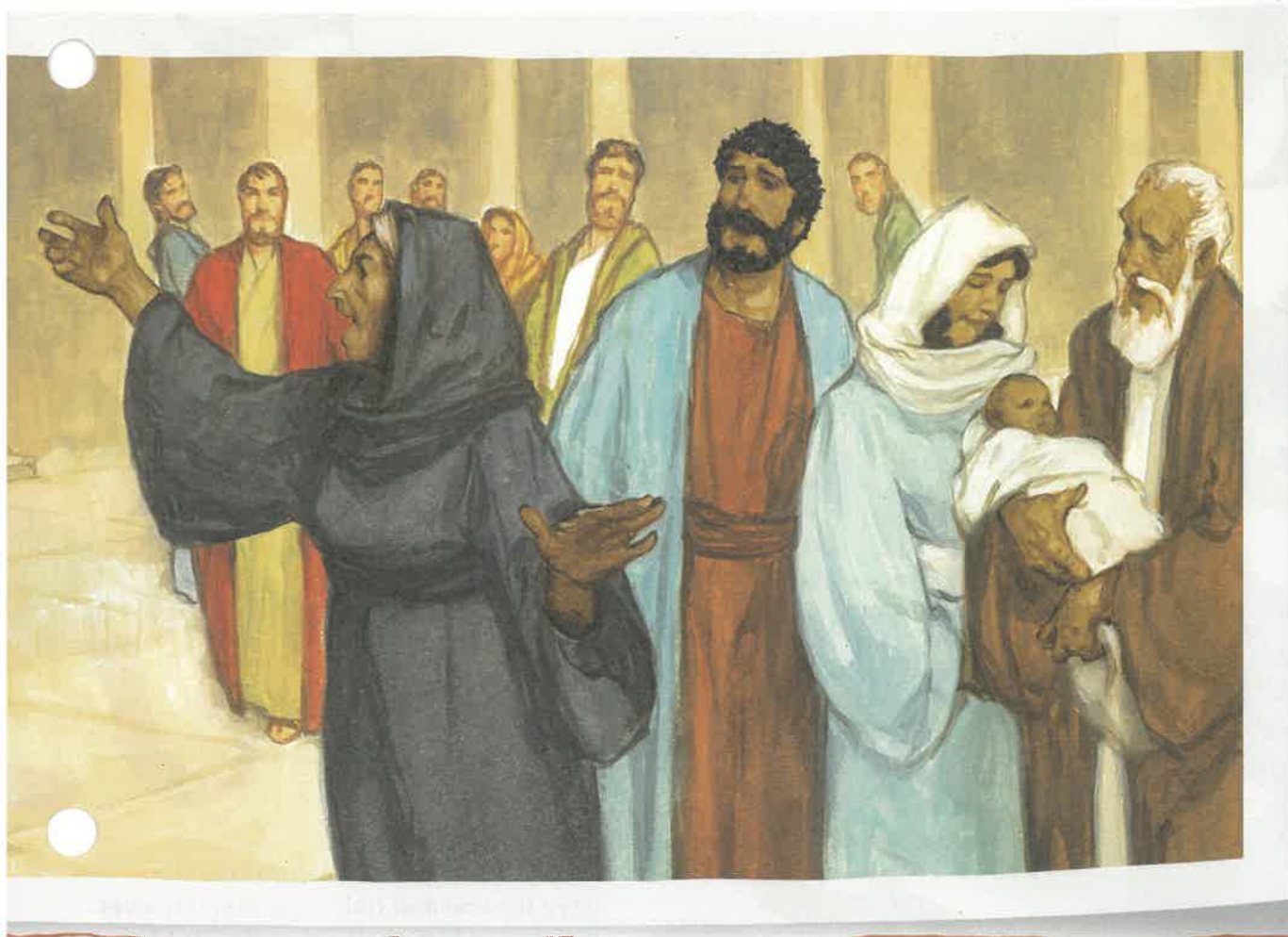
There was also a prophet, Anna³. . . . She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the

redemption of Jerusalem.

What did the people need to be set free from? What do all people need to be set free from?

Mary and Joseph returned home with the baby Jesus. Over the years, Jesus grew in strength and wisdom, and God's grace was upon Him.

³Anna became a widow after being married for seven years. In ancient times widows were usually poor because the sons would inherit all of the property.



TO: You
FROM: God
With all His love

When someone sends you a gift, it's good to send a handwritten thank-you note. God has given you the best gift you could ever get: He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born on earth. The ribbons around this present are covered with verses about God's gift. Use them to help you finish this thank-You note to God for His gift of Jesus.

Thank You

Jesus forgives us and
God pours out His love.
(Ephesians 1:7-8)

God loved us so much
He sent us His Son,
Jesus. (John 3:16)

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Some of you may have already opened and accepted God's gift, but some of you may not be ready yet. Finish your thank-you note by checking the statement that best describes you right now.

- Thank You, God, that I've already received the gift of Your Son, Jesus.
- Thank You, God, that I'm ready right now to receive Your gift, Jesus.
- Thank You, God, that I know someone who can help me understand more about Jesus.

Jesus is the way to God
the Father. (John 14:6)

Jesus has made it
possible to live with God
forever. (Romans 6:23)

KEY VERSE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16