



DAY 3 THE RESTORATION PROMISED

Astronomy does play a role in Jesus' early life: after all, a remarkable stellar occurrence prompted a certain group of educated stargazers to find Him! But quite some time before those travelers arrived, Jesus' arrival was made known to a working-class carpenter, his bride-to-be, and a pair of sweet-spirited senior adults.

Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna were undoubtedly familiar with God's promises that Immanuel would come to earth someday. You'll mention Isaiah 7:14 as you share today's Bible story with kids. Take a moment to check out what else was said about the Savior in Isaiah 11:1-5 and Isaiah 53:1-6. Scripture made it clear where the Savior would be born, the family from which He would come, and the role He would play in God's plan for mankind.

What an earth-shaking idea Joseph had to absorb when an angel interrupted his night's sleep to announce that he had been chosen to raise the Messiah! The angel reminded Joseph that Jesus was coming to save His people—not from earthly oppression, but from their sins. When he realized Whose child Mary was carrying, gentle Joseph cancelled his plans to cancel his engagement. Together, they welcomed God with us into the world and obediently dedicated Him at the appointed time.

It was, of course, no coincidence that Simeon and Anna were at the temple on the very same day. The consolation of Israel, for which Simeon waited, is vividly and accurately described in Isaiah 40:2. With the Holy Spirit's prompting, Simeon recognized that the baby in Mary's arms was The One. (Can't you just see the smile wrinkles crinkling on his face as he gently scooped up the baby Messiah in his hands? Can you hear Anna's delighted laugh? Don't you wish someone had taken a photo?)

Simeon and Anna praised the Savior before His work on earth was done. You know what that work truly accomplished. We're praying that you'll share that message sincerely and enthusiastically with your VBS kids!

ABOVE AND BEYOND

VBS isn't just for kids—it's for you, too! Consider these questions as you prepare to teach:

- The Holy Spirit helped Simeon recognize Jesus as the Messiah. How did the Holy Spirit help you recognize that Jesus was your Savior? (Kids may ask. Now's a good time to practice your answer!)
- Compare Luke 2:34-35 to 1 Corinthians 1:23 and 1 Peter 2:8. What do you think was the significance of Simeon's warning?