

- Based on a DSA family service - maybe do part 1 as a kids talk, and parts 2 and 3 as the sermon slot, retaining something of the interactivity...

### Need: Baby Stuff:

- birth certificate; mobile phone; nappy; clothes; bath stuff (wipes, shampoo); medical record book.

### With Kids: Mary's Joy

- When a baby arrives safely it is usually a time of great happiness and joy.
- What kind of things need to be done when a new baby is born?
  - registering the birth (birth certificate);
  - informing relatives (mobile phone);
  - medical checks (a medical record book);
  - buy clothes (clothes);
  - buy nappies (nappy);
  - buy cleaning things - shampoo, etc (various!).
- People usually have some kind of celebration too:
  - as Christians, we know that the best way to do that is by thanking God for the new baby, and dedicating that baby over to God.
- That's what we do whenever a baby is baptised
- In Jesus' time, they did many of the same kind of things - just a bit different:
  - (run through list again, seeing if they can come up with 1st century equivalents!!)
- But the first child to be born was extra specially special
  - it was as if that child belonged to God, rather than the family into which he or she was born!
  - so, a month after the baby was born, special trip to Temple in Jerusalem
- If rich - 5 pieces of silver!
- If poor - 2 pigeons!
- A celebration - a time to say thanks to God - a time when Mary & Joseph would have been filled with joy!
- How many people here are eldest children?
  - would have been a dedication at the Temple, a celebration, and a buying back from God for each one of you!

### Simeon's Joy

- Jesus, Mary & Joseph - up from Bethlehem - not too far.
  - why were they there?
- Simeon - background.
  - what kind of person was Simeon?
  - why did he come to the Temple?
- Waiting for Messiah to come... waiting... waiting...!
- What's it like waiting for something that seems to take ages to arrive?
  - holidays, or a party, or something like that?
  - will it ever arrive?
- Can sometimes be really exciting - sometimes really frustrating!
- Simeon found that God always keeps his promises!
- What does Simeon say of Jesus?
  - Jesus is God's salvation;
  - Jesus is God's light for the Gentiles (the whole world);
  - Jesus would bring glory to God;

- Jesus would bring destruction and sadness as well as happiness, for some

## The World's Joy

- Intro to Lighthouses:
  - showing the way to port;
  - warning of danger.
- Positive and negative sides of lights shining.

### Blindfold copy

- Imagine I showed a picture of a Lighthouse, like this one...
  - then asked you to copy it using paper and materials provided...
  - ...but blind-folded at the time!
- When we can't see, really hard to get things right!
- Need light to see!
  
- Simeon's words about the baby Jesus had both positive and negative sides.

### Simeon's Words of Wisdom:

- Jesus impact on the whole world - he is light of the world!
- Good news - showing the way to friendship with God, keeping us safe from sin and its consequences.

### Simeon's Words of Warning:

- Words of warning and sadness too - in rejecting Jesus lay ourselves open to God's just punishment on our sin.
  - sadness that would fall back on Mary as she her son was killed, because people wouldn't heed his warnings but became incensed.
  
- Lets look for and follow Jesus' light this year!

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## Intercessory Prayer

- Into the darkness of ....., Saviour of the world, let your light shine.
  - into Iraq
  - into Sudan/Darfur
  - into Zimbabwe
  - into communities in our own land scarred by the horror of the taking of innocent life
  - into lives darkened by illness or death
  
- Lord of the years, we ask your blessing on the year to come. In the opportunities to come, may you be our guide. In the disappointments to come, may you be our comfort. And may Jesus the Light of the World lead us to peace and salvation, now and always. Amen.