



REDEEMER FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

MAY 17, 2019

As you enter into his presence, remember that God is with you and for you, because he loves you. Use this devotional as you are able, in whole or in part.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we ask you to keep your church and household continually in your true religion; that they who lean only upon hope of your heavenly grace may always be defended by your mighty power; through Christ our Lord. Amen. (adapted from Cranmer Collect)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:25-32

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ 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 Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Church Community

- ▶ God, help us to put others before ourselves, and consider their needs above our own. Help us to think more like Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ACTIVITY

The God Report Card

This activity shows us how Jesus lived a perfect life for us. It's adapted from Jack Klumpenhower's book, *Show Them Jesus*.

Supplies: 2 manilla envelopes with "Report Card" written on them. On one write "Me" in the name line, and on the other write "Jesus."

3 report cards (One with all F's and the other with all A+'s, the last one blank. Download it here: jackklumpenhower.com/printables)

Instructions

Show your kids the manila envelope with "Me" in the name line. Tell them to imagine that this is their report card that they will show to God, but instead of earning grades in math and science, they will earn grades in subjects like honesty and generosity.

Ask the kids what grade they would give themselves in each subject. (Show a blank report card)

Say: Actually, we all earn the same grade in every subject. Pull out the report card with "Me" in the name line. There will be an F written in red marker for each subject.

Say: Because God is perfect and demands perfect obedience, even when we mess



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up just a little, that's enough to earn us a failing grade. What would happen if you took a school report card home with all F's?

Say: We have a problem, and that problem is sin. The good news is that Jesus fixes our sin problem. How does he do it? (Give kids a chance to respond)

Say: He could forgive us, but Jesus simply forgiving us is like him erasing all our F's. He could do that, but then we'd just be left with a blank report card wouldn't we? And if I have a blank report card I'd be tempted to do a lot of good stuff to try to earn some good grades, wouldn't you?

Ask: Could Jesus simply give us all A's? Sure, but an A doesn't mean much if it wasn't earned. So if Jesus is going to give us all A's, where do those A's come from?

Pull out the second envelope with "Jesus" written on the name line. Take out his report card and show the kids the A+'s in each subject.

Say: Jesus obeyed God perfectly in every subject. Now, here is what the good news means...

Put Jesus' A+ report card in the "Me" envelope and put the F report card in the "Jesus" envelope.

Say: When we talk about Jesus taking our sin to the cross it means that he actually traded his perfect life with our imperfect one. It was like Jesus taking home a report card full of F's to God. Those F's had to be punished. That's why Jesus had to die on the cross. He got the punishment that our sin deserves. But Jesus truly was perfect and didn't deserve death. That's why three days later he was resurrected.

Ask: How does it make you feel knowing that you have an A+ report card from Jesus? (Allow kids to respond.)

Say: Now, instead of trying to do good things to earn a good grade, we know that we can't ever do enough to deserve those A+'s. Now when we do good things it's in response to God's love. We can pray and read our Bible not because we feel like we have to or God will be mad at us, but because we love God and want to be closer to Him!

► For a handy guide to the family devotional elements, visit redeemer.com/familydevotional.

► Questions and answers from First Catechism are used by permission of Great Commission Publications.

Activity from Show Them Jesus and ministry-to-children.com