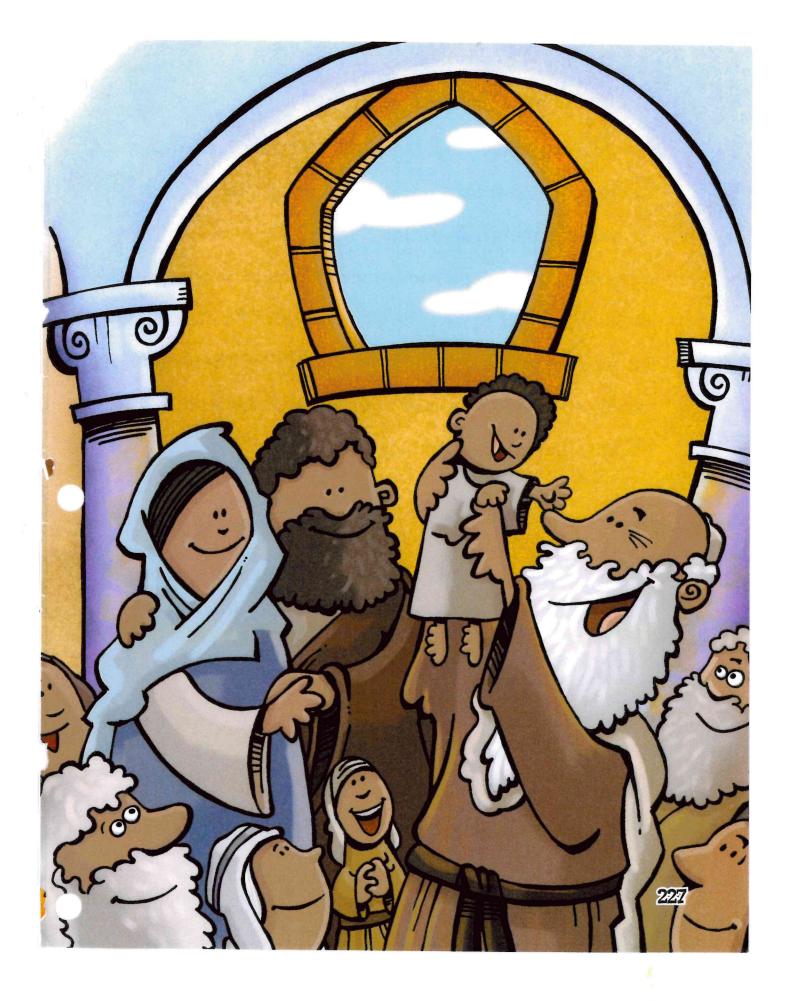
Simeon and Anna

There was an old man named Simeon who lived in Jerusalem. Simeon loved God. He knew God's words and believed God's promises. God made a promise to Simeon. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw the person God was sending to save the whole world!

One day Simeon went to the temple. The temple was very crowded. Many people were there. Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were there too. Simeon looked around. When Simeon saw baby Jesus he got very excited! Could Jesus be the one? Simeon pointed at baby Jesus and asked, "May I hold him?" "Carefully," Mary said. Simeon carefully picked Jesus up and began praising God!



Simeon said, "God, you have kept your promise!

You have let me see the one you promised to send.

He will save the whole world!"

Mary and Joseph were amazed! Was Jesus part of God's promise to save the whole world? "What does this mean?" Joseph asked. "How can this be?" Simeon talked about God's promise with Mary and Joseph.

Then he blessed Jesus and his family.



An old woman named Anna was also at the temple. Anna lived at the temple. She worshipped God and prayed day and night. When Anna saw Jesus, she rushed over. She knew Jesus was special. Would Mary let Anna hold Jesus too? "Yes," Mary said. Anna began praising God too! She told everyone who would listen, "Jesus is the one God promised to send. Jesus will save the world!" Then Anna handed Jesus back to Joseph. "Take good care of him," Anna said. "Oh, we will," Joseph said.

What an exciting day! When Mary and Joseph finished at the temple, they took Jesus home to Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. He became strong and wise, and God was always with him.

