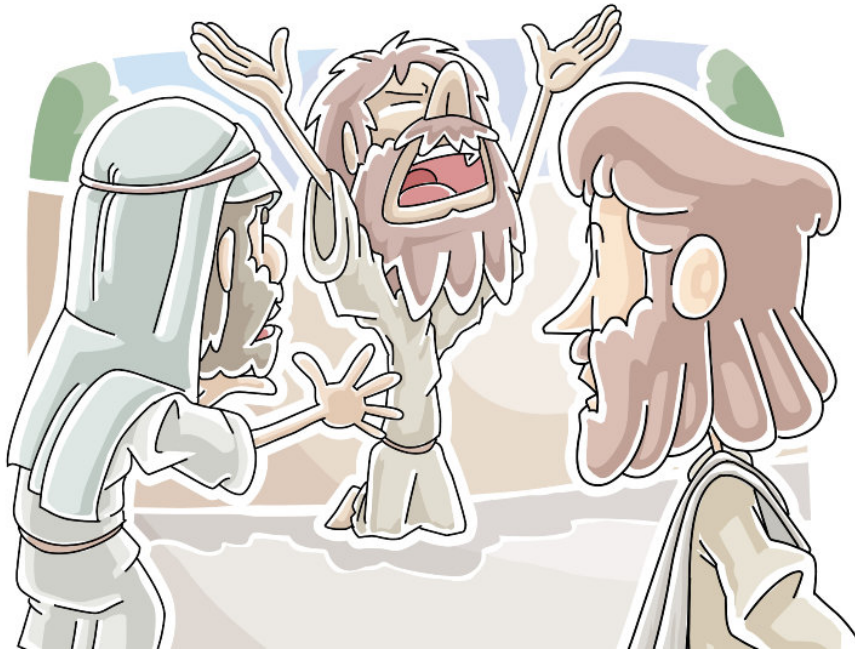
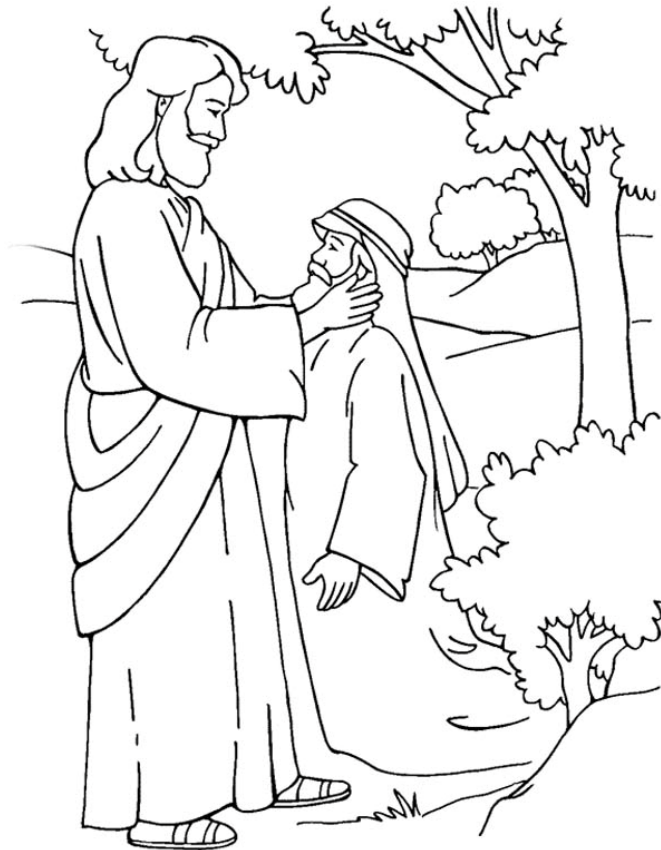


7 February 2016

JUNIORS: Jesus heals the blind man: John 9



Colour this picture in and take it to your teacher on Sunday



SENIORS: Good news even for the OLD!

(Luke 2:22-38)



(freebibleimages)

We often read that Jesus' mother, Mary, 'treasured' the memory of all the special things which happened when Jesus was born. Think of all the stories she must have remembered and told Jesus about when he was old enough to understand.

I am sure she told him about the wise men, the shepherds, the star, the fact that there was nowhere for them to stay. And then there were 2 other special people whom she and Joseph:

About 40 days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took their baby boy up to Jerusalem to present him in the temple. This was a special occasion, a bit like when you were christened or baptised.

It was just a normal day in the temple. Mary and Joseph were very ordinary people so they wouldn't have stood out in the crowd of people there. They would just have slipped in quietly. They were very poor so they brought only a small sacrifice to thank God for their baby.

Amazingly, as they stood there, two people came up to them and commented on their baby. Now this often happens when one has a baby because people love babies! But these two people didn't just comment on Jesus as a baby, but on how special Jesus was.

The first was a man called Simeon. He spent a great deal of time thinking about God and praying that God would send his special messenger, the Messiah, to Israel. He was so close to God that, in some amazing way, God had told him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. And every day he was alert to what God was saying to him. (That's a pretty good example for us!)

Well, on the day that Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple, God told Simeon to go up to the temple. When he got there, God pointed out this couple with their baby to him – and Simeon knew at once that this tiny baby was the promised Messiah! He was thrilled and, as he held the baby, he thanked God for sending the one who would save the world. He recognised that this baby was God's 'good news' for everyone. Imagine being told with such confidence by such a holy man that your baby would save the world! No wonder Joseph and Mary remembered that moment.

Then, just as Simeon was speaking, a very old lady came up to Joseph and Mary. Her name was Anna and she was probably older than your grandparents! She also spent her days praying so she was also in touch with what God was doing. When she heard Simeon speak, she knew exactly what was going on, and so she began to praise God and to tell everyone around them that this child was the Messiah they had been promised. Perhaps the other worshippers at the temple shrugged and thought she was crazy! Perhaps they stopped to listen, to look at the baby – and perhaps they would remember that incident later when Jesus started to preach and do miracles. We don't know, but we do know that Mary remembered these events. I am sure she told Jesus, and she certainly told Luke when he was writing his gospel (good news).

So, the good news about Jesus wasn't just for wise men fit enough to ride a camel or for shepherds who were able to walk all the way to Bethlehem. It was also good news for those who are so old that others might think they are unimportant – past it, out of it. God's good news will still be good news for you when you are that age!

Our memory verse comes from what is perhaps the most depressing book in the Bible – Lamentations. The name means 'weeping'! But in the middle of it, even that sad writer remembers that God is always there.

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end' Lam 3:22

PUZZLE

Open your Bibles to Luke chapter 2. Use verses 25-38 to check which word in brackets is correct. Circle the right word in each sentence or bring me a list of the 9 correct words.

1. "Now there was a man in Jerusalem (SAMUEL, SIMEON) who was righteous and devout." (verse 25)
2. "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the (LORD'S MESSIAH, TEMPLE)." (verse 26)
3. "... the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him what the customs of the (LAW, TEACHERS)" (verse 27)
4. "Simeon took him (ON HIS LAP, IN HIS ARMS) and praised God ..." (verse 28)
5. Then Simeon said that Jesus would be a (LIGHT, PATH) to God. (verse 32)
6. The child's father and mother (MARVELLED, LAUGHED) at what was said about him" (verse 33)
7. "Now there was also a prophet, (ANNA, AMELIA), (verse 36)
8. "She was very old ...she was (ONE HUNDRED, EIGHTY-FOUR)." (verse 37)
9. "She gave thanks to the Lord and spoke about the (CEREMONY, CHILD) to all ..." (verse 38)