

1. Intro

- There are very few recorded stories in Scripture about Jesus as a baby. Today, we'll look at what people did when they encountered or interacted with baby Jesus.
 - We'll look at some interactions that Mary, Joseph, a Godly man named Simeon, and a Godly prophetess named Anna had with Him; we will learn some good perspectives from them.

2. Text

Luke 2:21-24

- Joseph and Mary named their baby "Jesus", just as the angel instructed.
 - The name "Jesus" means "Yahweh **saves**" or "Yahweh is **salvation**".
 - **Matthew 1:21** "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
 - **Acts 4:12** - "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."
- Joseph and Mary **honored** God by following the requirements of the **Law** for their baby.
 - Joseph and Mary had Jesus **circumcised** when He was 8 days old.
 - "Jesus' circumcision was His first suffering for us." - Donald Barnhouse
 - Joseph and Mary gave a **purification** offering at the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - They offered 2 turtledoves or pigeons rather than a lamb because they were poor. (Leviticus 12)
 - **2 Corinthians 8:9**: "You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

- Joseph and Mary **dedicated** Jesus to the LORD.
 - God said the purpose for the dedication ceremony for a firstborn male was to **REMIND** all future generations of the Lord's mighty hand that brought their Jewish ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 13, Numbers 18:15-16)

Luke 2:25-35

- Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God! His life's wish and hope was **fulfilled**, and he was content and ready to **die**.
 - The only thing on his bucket list was to see Jesus!
 - Simeon prophesied that what people did with the person of Jesus would reveal the deepest thoughts in their hearts... what's truly important to them.

Luke 2:36-38

- Anna praised God and **talked** about the baby Jesus to everyone who was waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

3. Application

- We looked at what Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna did with Jesus as a baby. We learned some of their deepest thoughts: raised Him according to God's Word, loved Him, praised Him, found complete contentment in Him, and talked about Him to everyone interested.
 - What will you do with Jesus in 2026? How will you interact with Him? What needs to change from 2025?
 - Do we need to make a point to **remember** His goodness and faithfulness to us more often?
 - Do we need to look at our overloaded schedule and drop something so that we have more time to "embrace" Jesus each day? Write 1 thing down that needs to go from your schedule to make room for Him.
 - Anna talked about Jesus to everyone interested! Is there someone you are burdened to talk with about Jesus in 2026? Write that name down and begin praying for God to work!