Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – First Sunday after Christmas

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for **young children (ages 4–8)** and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for the **– First Sunday after Christmas (Year B).** Bible Verses: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40; Preface of Christmas

✨ Sunday School Lesson Plan

First Sunday after Christmas – Year B

JESUS IS GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFT!

Theme: Jesus Brings Light, Joy, and Love to the World

Big Idea: Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple to give thanks to God. Simeon and Anna recognized that Jesus was God's promised Saviour. They were filled with joy and praised God. Jesus is God's wonderful gift to everyone, and we can share his light and love with others.

Lesson Focus for Kids: God keeps his promises. Jesus is the light of the world. We are loved children of God. We can praise God, give thanks, and share Jesus' love.

Age Group: Preschool to Young Elementary (approximately 3–9 years)

Suggested Lesson Length: 30–45 minutes, with additional activities as desired.

Liturgical Season: Christmas
Liturgical Colour: White or Gold
Preface: Christmas

Scripture Readings — As Requested

- Isaiah 61:10–62:3
- Psalm 148
- Galatians 4:4–7

- Luke 2:22–40

Lectionary note: December 27, 2026, falls in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary cycle, and these are the Year B readings for the First Sunday After Christmas. This lesson follows the readings you provided.

1. Lesson Title / Theme / Big Idea

JESUS IS GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFT!

Theme: Celebrating Jesus, the Light of the World

Big Idea: Jesus was born to bring God's love and salvation into the world. Simeon and Anna had waited faithfully for God's promises to be fulfilled. When they saw Jesus, they knew that God had done something wonderful.

Children will learn that:

- Christmas is not over! We continue celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple.
- Simeon was filled with joy when he saw Jesus.
- Anna thanked God and told others about Jesus.
- Jesus is God's promised Saviour and a light for all people.
- God loves us and welcomes us into his family.
- We can praise God, pray, give thanks, and share Jesus' love.

This Week's Message

JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD!

2. Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Isaiah 61:10–62:3 — Rejoice! God Has Done Wonderful Things!

Long ago, God's people were waiting for wonderful things to happen.
The prophet Isaiah spoke about God's goodness.
He was so happy that he wanted to sing!
He said that God had dressed him in salvation and righteousness, like beautiful clothes for a special celebration.
Isaiah reminded the people that God would bring goodness and hope.
Just as little plants grow in a garden, God's goodness would grow among his people.
God promised that his people would shine brightly.
They would be precious to him, like a beautiful crown.

Kid Connection: God loves us and wants us to rejoice in his goodness. Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love.

GOD GIVES US JOY!

Psalm 148 — Let Everything Praise God!

The psalm writer wanted everyone to praise God.
He called to the angels in heaven.
He called to the sun, moon, and shining stars.
He called to the mountains and hills.
He called to the trees, animals, and birds.
He called to the kings and rulers.
He called to children, young people, and older people.
Everyone and everything was invited to praise God!
God made the whole world.
God loves his creation.
God is worthy of our praise.

Kid Connection: We can praise God wherever we are. We can sing, pray, give thanks, and enjoy the beautiful world God made.

LET EVERYTHING PRAISE THE LORD!

Galatians 4:4–7 — We Are God's Children

Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Galatia.
He reminded them that God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world at just the right time.
Jesus was born of a woman, Mary.
Jesus came to bring us close to God.
Because of Jesus, we can be welcomed into God's family.
We are not strangers to God.
We are God's beloved children!
God gives us his Holy Spirit to help us know him.
We can call God our loving Father.

Kid Connection: God loves us and welcomes us into his family. We belong to God, and we can trust him.

I AM A LOVED CHILD OF GOD!

Luke 2:22–40 — Simeon and Anna Meet Baby Jesus

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph cared for him lovingly.
When the time came, they took baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem.
They wanted to follow God's law and give thanks to him.

At the Temple was an older man named Simeon.
Simeon loved God.
He had been waiting a long time for God's promised Saviour.
The Holy Spirit had told Simeon that he would see the Messiah before he died.
That day, the Holy Spirit guided Simeon to the Temple.
When Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus inside, Simeon knew that this was the special child God had promised.
Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God.
He thanked God because he had seen the Saviour.
Simeon said that Jesus would be a light for all people.
Mary and Joseph were amazed by his words.
There was also an older woman named Anna.
Anna was a prophet who loved God very much.
She spent her time worshipping, praying, and giving thanks.
When Anna saw Jesus, she began praising God.
She told others who were waiting for God's promised deliverance about this wonderful child.
After Mary and Joseph had done everything required by God's law, they returned to Nazareth.
Jesus grew bigger and stronger.
He became wise, and God's favour was upon him.

Kid Connection: Simeon and Anna were happy because God had kept his promise. Jesus is the Saviour who brings God's light and love to the world.

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JESUS!

3. Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Activity — The Best Gift of All

Materials: A wrapped gift box, a picture of baby Jesus, a heart, and a battery-operated candle.

Place the wrapped box in the centre of the circle.

Ask the children:

- "Did you receive a special gift at Christmas?"
- "How did you feel when you opened it?"
- "Have you ever waited a long time for something wonderful?"
- "What do you think is the greatest gift God has given us?"

Open the gift box.

Inside, place a picture of baby Jesus.

Explain:

"Christmas is not finished! We are still celebrating the birth of Jesus. Today we will hear about two people named Simeon and Anna. They had waited a long time for God's special promise. When they saw baby Jesus, they were filled with joy!"

Opening Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the wonderful gift of Jesus.
Thank you for loving us and welcoming us into your family.
Thank you for Simeon and Anna, who waited faithfully for your promises.
Help us listen to your Word.
Fill our hearts with joy and thanksgiving.
Teach us to share the light and love of Jesus with others.

Amen.

4. Memory Verse

"Praise the LORD!"

Psalm 148:1

For slightly older children, use:

"Let them praise the name of the LORD." — Psalm 148:13

Memory Verse Actions

Words	Actions
PRAISE	Lift both hands upward
THE	Stretch arms wide
LORD	Point upward

Repeat the verse together several times.

Memory Verse Game — Praise God!

Have the children stand in a circle.
Call out something God has made.
Examples: sun, moon, stars, trees, birds, flowers, animals, and people.
Children make a simple action representing that creation.
After each one, everyone says:

"PRAISE THE LORD!"

Explain:

"Psalm 148 reminds us that all creation can praise God!"

5. Bible Story Time

Simeon and Anna Meet Baby Jesus!

A long time ago, in the city of Jerusalem, there was a beautiful Temple.
People went to the Temple to worship God.
One day, Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple.
They wanted to thank God and follow his commandments.
Inside the Temple was a kind older man named Simeon.
Simeon loved God very much.
He had been waiting and waiting for something wonderful.
God had promised to send a Saviour.
Simeon believed God's promise.
One day, the Holy Spirit guided Simeon to the Temple.
As Simeon looked around, he saw Mary and Joseph carrying baby Jesus.
Simeon knew that this baby was very special.
This was Jesus!
The Saviour God had promised!
Simeon was filled with joy.
He gently took baby Jesus in his arms.
He praised God and thanked him.
Simeon said that Jesus would bring God's light to all people.
Mary and Joseph listened with amazement.
Then an older woman named Anna came near.
Anna loved God too.
She spent much of her time praying and worshipping.
When Anna saw Jesus, she was filled with joy.
She began thanking God!
Anna told others about the wonderful child.
God had kept his promise!
Jesus had come!
Mary and Joseph were happy to know that God was with them.
They took Jesus home to Nazareth.
Jesus grew bigger and stronger.
He learned and became wise.
God loved Jesus and cared for him.
Today we celebrate the wonderful news that Jesus was born.
We can be like Simeon and Anna.
We can praise God.
We can give thanks.

We can tell others about Jesus.
We can share his love.

Say Together

SIMEON PRAISED GOD!

ANNA THANKED GOD!

JESUS IS GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFT!

6. Craft / Activity

Craft 1 — Jesus Is the Light of the World!

Materials: Yellow construction paper, white paper, crayons, glue, scissors, and battery-operated tea lights (optional).

Give each child a large paper candle template.

Have children colour and decorate the candle.

Add a yellow paper flame.

Write across the candle:

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

Explain:

"Simeon said that Jesus would be a light for all people. We can share Jesus' light by showing kindness and love."

Craft 2 — Simeon's Thankful Heart

Materials: Large paper hearts, crayons, markers, and stickers.

Give each child a large heart.

Write inside:

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JESUS!

Ask children to draw something they are thankful for.

They might draw family, friends, food, pets, church, or God's beautiful world.

Explain:

"Simeon and Anna were thankful for Jesus. We can thank God for all our blessings."

Craft 3 — My Praise the Lord Crown

Materials: Paper crown templates, crayons, stickers, and glue.

Have children decorate a simple paper crown.

Across the front write:

PRAISE THE LORD!

Explain:

"Isaiah reminds us that God's people are precious to him, like a beautiful crown. Psalm 148 invites everyone to praise God."

7. Games

Game 1 — Find Baby Jesus!

Materials: A small picture or figure of baby Jesus.

Hide the picture somewhere in the classroom.

Tell the children:

"Simeon had waited a long time to see Jesus. Today we are going to look for baby Jesus!"

Allow the children to search together.

When they find Jesus, everyone says:

"THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JESUS!"

Repeat the game if time allows.

Game 2 — Praise God for Everything!

Call out different things God created.

Children respond with an action.

Teacher Says	Children Do
Sun	Stretch arms into a big circle
Stars	Wiggle fingers
Birds	Flap arms gently
Trees	Stand tall with arms raised
Flowers	Crouch and slowly grow
People	Give themselves a hug

After each action, say:

"PRAISE THE LORD!"

Game 3 — Pass the Gift of Love

Materials: A wrapped gift box with a picture of Jesus inside.

Have children sit in a circle.

Pass the gift box while singing "Jesus Loves Me."

When the singing stops, the child holding the gift names one way to show Jesus' love.

Examples include helping, sharing, praying, forgiving, welcoming, and comforting.

Explain:

"Jesus is God's gift to us. We can share his love with everyone."

8. Song Suggestions

- **Away in a Manger** — Celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- **Joy to the World** — Rejoicing because Jesus has come.
- **Jesus Loves Me** — Remembering God's love.
- **This Little Light of Mine** — Sharing Jesus' light.
- **Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children** — Praising God.
- **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands** — God's care for creation.
- **All Things Bright and Beautiful** — Celebrating God's creation.
- **Go, Tell It on the Mountain** — Sharing the good news of Jesus.
- **Angels We Have Heard on High** — Celebrating Christmas.
- **The First Nowell** — Remembering the birth of Jesus.

Simple Action Song

To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord,
Every day,
Every day.

Thank you, God, for Jesus,
Thank you, God, for Jesus,
Sing with joy,
Sing with joy.

9. Snack Suggestions

Star-Shaped Snacks

Serve star-shaped sandwiches or cookies.

Explain:

"Jesus brings God's light into the world."

Christmas Celebration Snack

Serve fruit, crackers, or small sandwiches arranged in a festive pattern.

Explain:

"We are still celebrating Christmas and thanking God for Jesus!"

Sharing Snack

Invite children to help distribute snacks.

Explain:

"God gives us wonderful gifts. We can show our thanks by sharing with others."

Snack Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for this food.
Thank you for Christmas.
Thank you for sending Jesus.

Thank you for loving us and welcoming us into your family.
Help us share with others.

Amen.

Check food allergies and choking hazards, and supervise food preparation.

10. Wrap Up & Reflections

Gather the children in a circle.

Ask:

Who brought baby Jesus to the Temple?
Mary and Joseph.

Who was the older man waiting for God's promise?
Simeon.

What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?
He praised God.

Who was the older woman who thanked God?
Anna.

What did Anna do after seeing Jesus?
She thanked God and told others about him.

What did Simeon say Jesus would bring to the world?
God's light and salvation.

What does Psalm 148 tell us to do?
Praise God!

Are we loved children of God?
Yes!

How can we share Jesus' light?
By helping, sharing, praying, welcoming, and showing kindness.

Say Together

JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT!

WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN!

LET EVERYTHING PRAISE THE LORD!

11. Closing Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for sending Jesus into the world.
Thank you for keeping your promises.
Thank you for Simeon and Anna, who praised you with joyful hearts.
Help us remember that Jesus is the light of the world.
Thank you for welcoming us into your family.
Teach us to praise you every day.
Help us share your love with everyone we meet.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

12. Take-Home Idea

My Christmas Week — Sharing Jesus' Light

Encourage children to complete one simple act of love or praise each day.

SHARE JESUS' LIGHT!

Sunday — Thank God for Jesus.
Monday — Help someone at home.
Tuesday — Share a toy or game.
Wednesday — Say something kind.
Thursday — Pray for someone.
Friday — Thank God for something beautiful.
Saturday — Make someone smile.

0 of 7 activities completed

Family Prayer:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for coming into the world. Help us praise God and share your light and love with others. Amen."

13. Teacher Notes

Understanding the First Sunday After Christmas

Christmas is a season, not just one day.
In the Anglican Church, the Christmas season begins on Christmas Day and continues through the days following Christmas, leading to Epiphany.
This Sunday reminds us that Jesus came into the world as a real child.
Mary and Joseph loved him, cared for him, and raised him in their family.
The Gospel reading shows that Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promises.

Connecting the Readings

Isaiah 61:10–62:3: God's people rejoice because God brings salvation, righteousness, and hope. God loves his people and calls them precious.

Psalm 148: All creation is invited to praise God. Children can join in praising the Lord.

Galatians 4:4–7: God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as God's children. Through Jesus, we belong to God's family.

Luke 2:22–40: Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple. Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as God's promised Saviour and respond with praise and thanksgiving.

Important Teaching Points

1. **God keeps his promises.** Simeon waited faithfully for the coming of the Messiah.

2. **Jesus is the light of the world.** Simeon recognized that Jesus would bring salvation to all peoples.

3. **We can praise God.** Psalm 148 invites everyone, including children, to praise the Lord.

4. **We are God's children.** Through Jesus Christ, God welcomes us into his family.

5. **Older people are important in God's family.** Simeon and Anna show us that people of every age can serve God faithfully.

6. **We can share the good news.** Anna praised God and spoke to others about Jesus.

7. **Jesus grew and learned.** Luke reminds us that Jesus experienced childhood and grew in wisdom.

A Note About Simeon and Anna

Simeon and Anna were faithful older people who had spent many years worshipping and waiting for God's promises.
Their story helps children understand that everyone has a special place in the Church.
Grandparents, older friends, and other members of the congregation can share wisdom, kindness, and faith.

Consider inviting an older parishioner to tell the children something they love about Jesus.

A Note About Jesus' Presentation

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in accordance with Jewish law.
This reminds us that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and grew up within the traditions of his people.

Explain simply:

"Mary and Joseph loved God and wanted to follow God's ways."

14. Anglican Connection

The Christmas Season

The First Sunday After Christmas is part of the joyful Christmas season.
In Anglican churches, the liturgical colour is usually white or gold.
These colours remind us of celebration, holiness, and the light of Christ.

Simeon's Song — The Nunc Dimittis

When Simeon held Jesus, he praised God with words that became a special song of the Church.
This song is called the *Nunc Dimittis*, or the Song of Simeon.
It is found in Luke 2:29–32.
It is traditionally used in Anglican Evening Prayer and Compline.
Simeon praised God because he had seen the promised Saviour.
Explain to children:
"Simeon was so happy to see Jesus that he thanked God with a beautiful song!"

Jesus Is the Light of the World

Simeon described Jesus as a light to the nations.
In Anglican worship, candles often remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.
At Baptism, a lighted candle may be given as a sign of the light of Christ.
Explain:
"Jesus brings God's light and love into our lives. We can share that light by loving others."

Baptism and Belonging to God's Family

Galatians reminds us that through Jesus Christ we are welcomed as God's children.
In Anglican Baptism, we celebrate God's love and our belonging to the family of Christ.

Explain:

"God loves us, and the Church is a family where we learn to love and care for one another."

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

The story of Simeon and Anna is also remembered at the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, traditionally celebrated on February 2.
This feast is sometimes called Candlemas.
It celebrates Jesus as the light of the world.

This Week's Message

The First Sunday After Christmas reminds us that Jesus is God's wonderful gift to the world.

Isaiah celebrates God's salvation and goodness. Psalm 148 invites all creation to praise the Lord. Galatians reminds us that through Jesus Christ we are welcomed as God's children. Luke tells us how Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as God's promised Saviour.

Simeon and Anna waited faithfully for God's promises.

When they saw Jesus, they were filled with joy and thanksgiving.

We can follow their example by praising God, giving thanks, praying, helping others, and sharing Jesus' love.

JESUS IS GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFT! LET EVERYTHING PRAISE THE LORD!

These lesson plans are intended as a collection of ideas rather than a single lesson that must be completed in full. Teachers are encouraged to select the stories, crafts, games, and worksheets that best suit the ages, abilities, and interests of the children they teach.

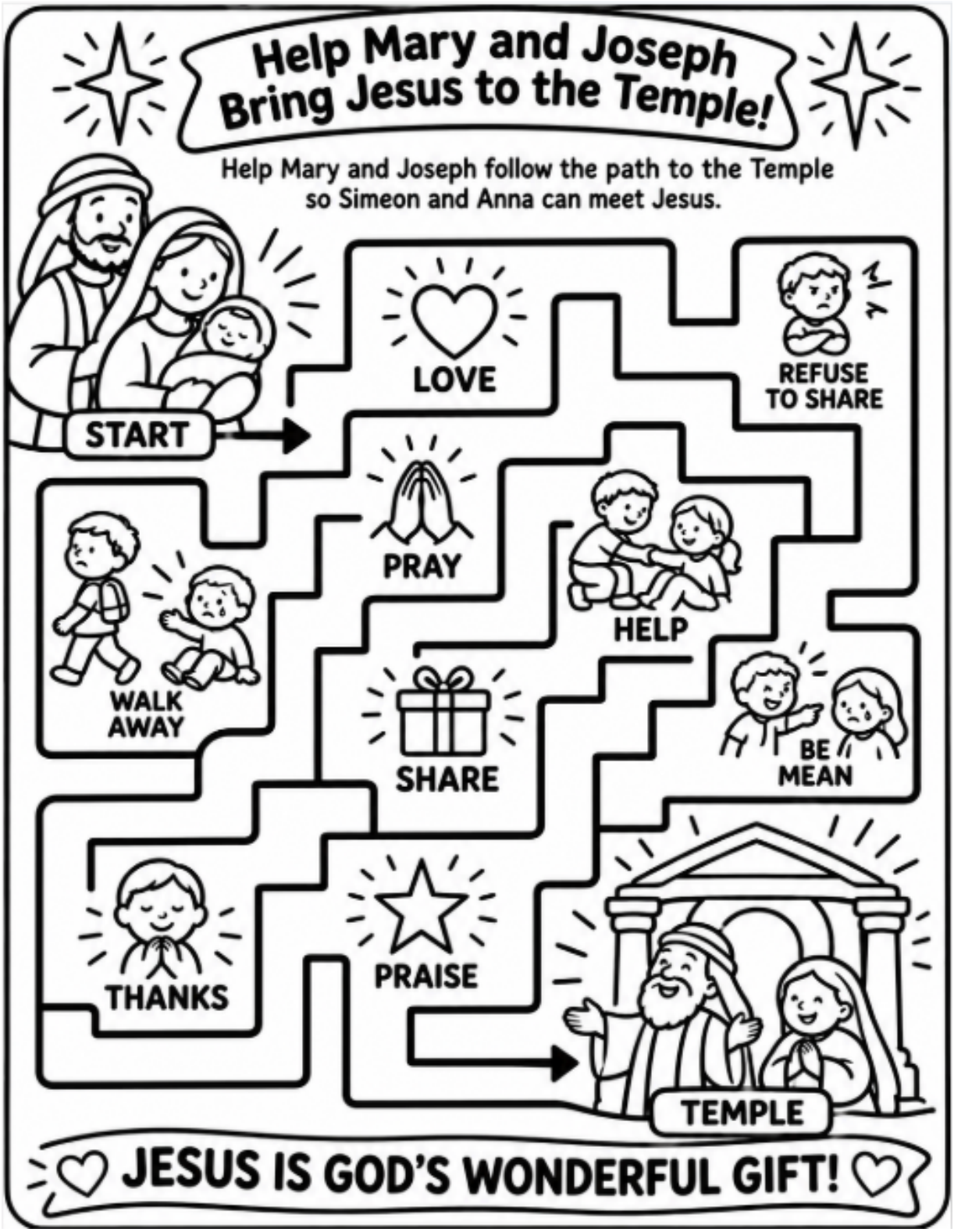
Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas



Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

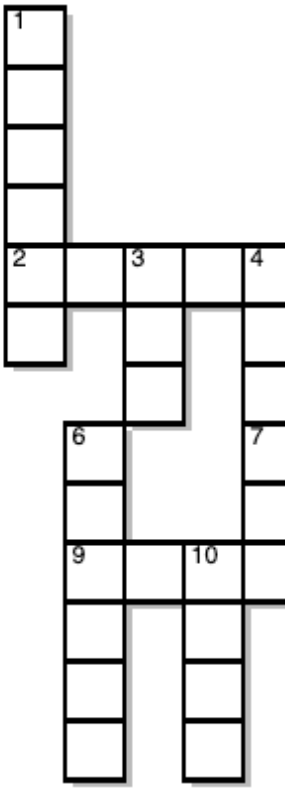
First Sunday after Christmas



Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas







ACROSS

2 Simeon said that Jesus would be a _____ for all people.
7 Psalm 148 tells us to _____ the Lord.
9 The older man who praised God when he saw Jesus.

DOWN

1 Through Jesus we belong to God's _____.
3 The One who sent Jesus into the world.
4 The special place where Mary and Joseph brought Jesus.
5 The baby Mary and Joseph brought to the temple.
6 The man who cared for Mary and Jesus.
8 The older woman who thanked God and told others about Jesus.
10 Jesus' mother.

Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas



Jesus
Mary
Joseph
Simeon
Anna
Temple
Light
Praise
Family
God
Love
Share
Thanks
Pray

Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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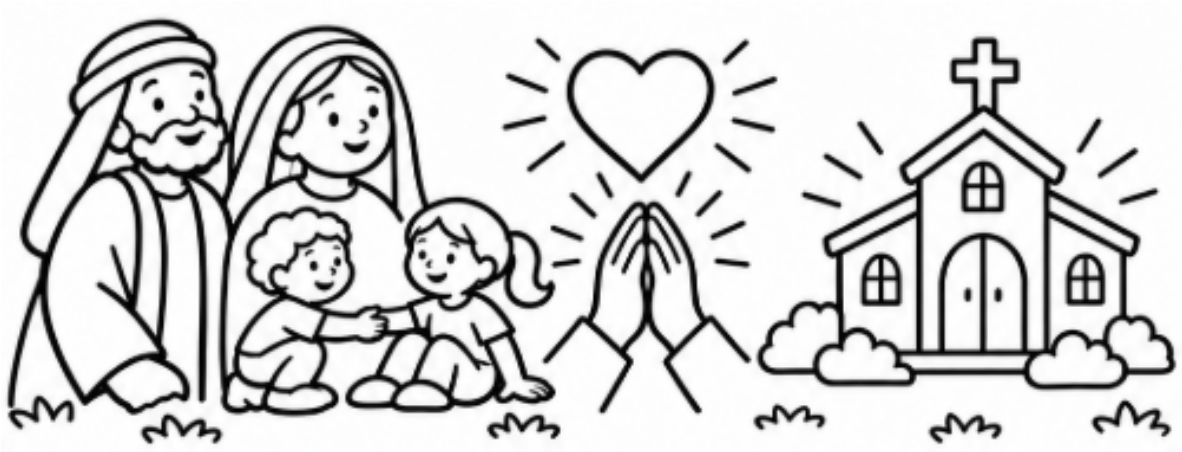

Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas



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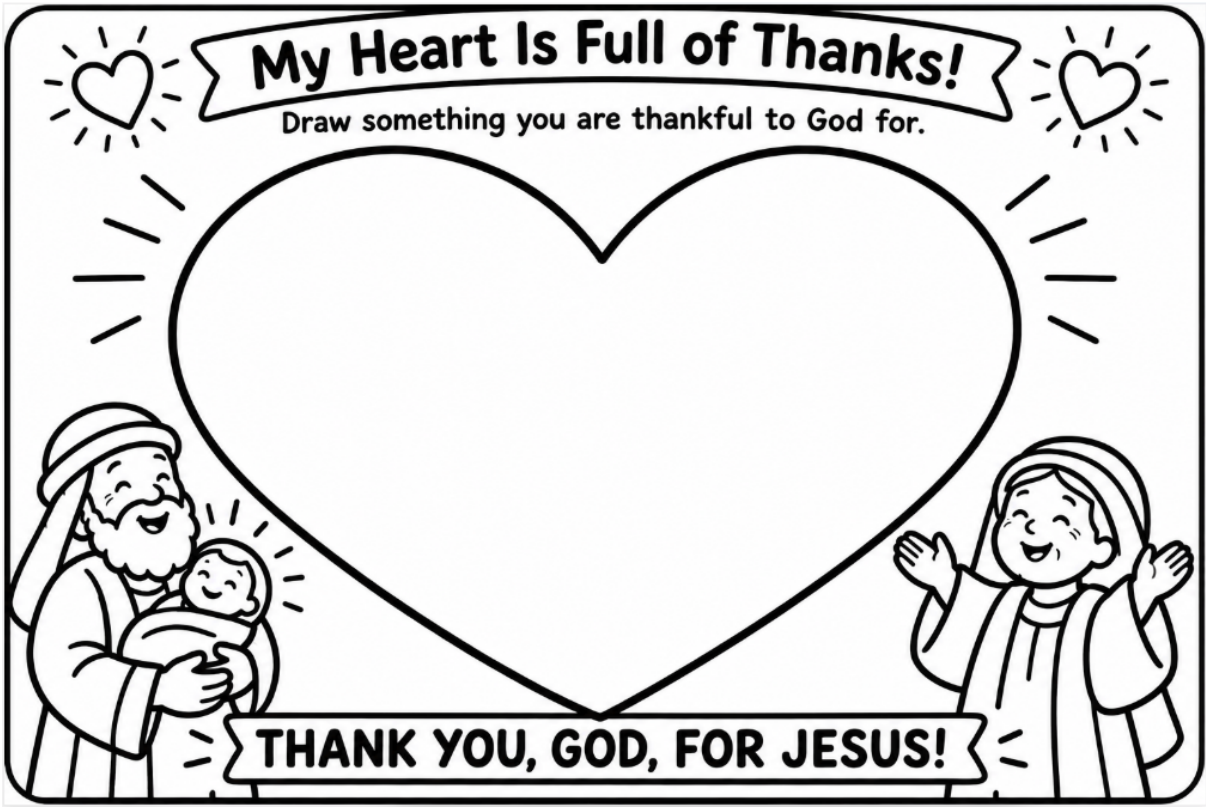

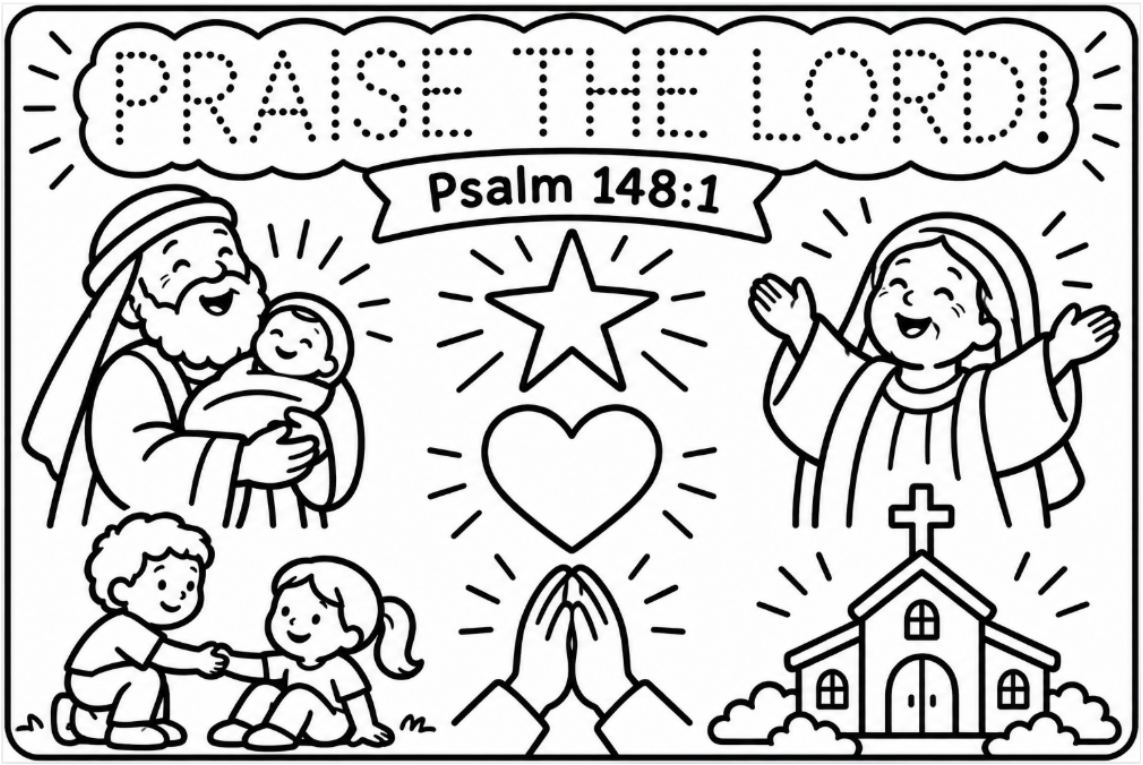

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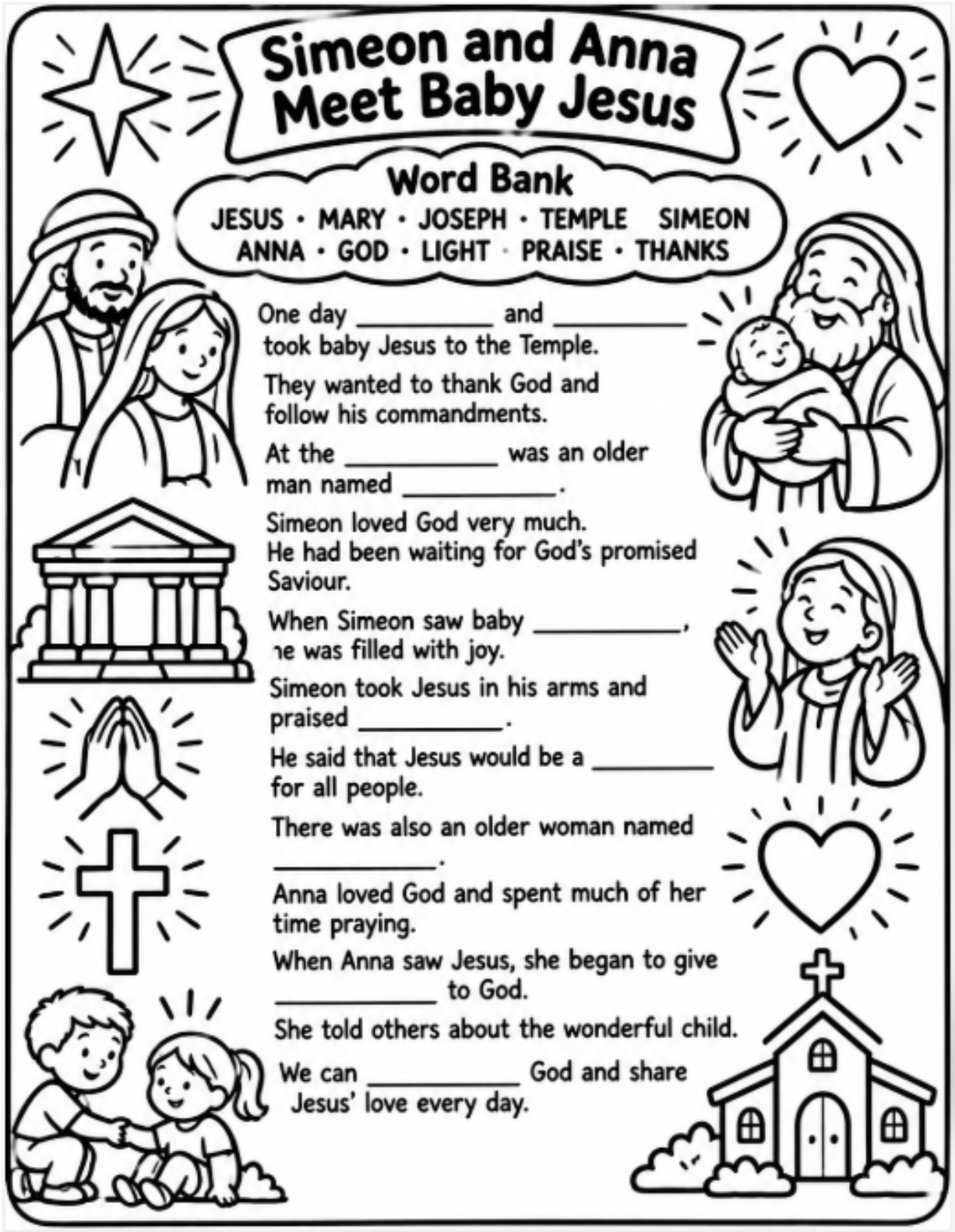

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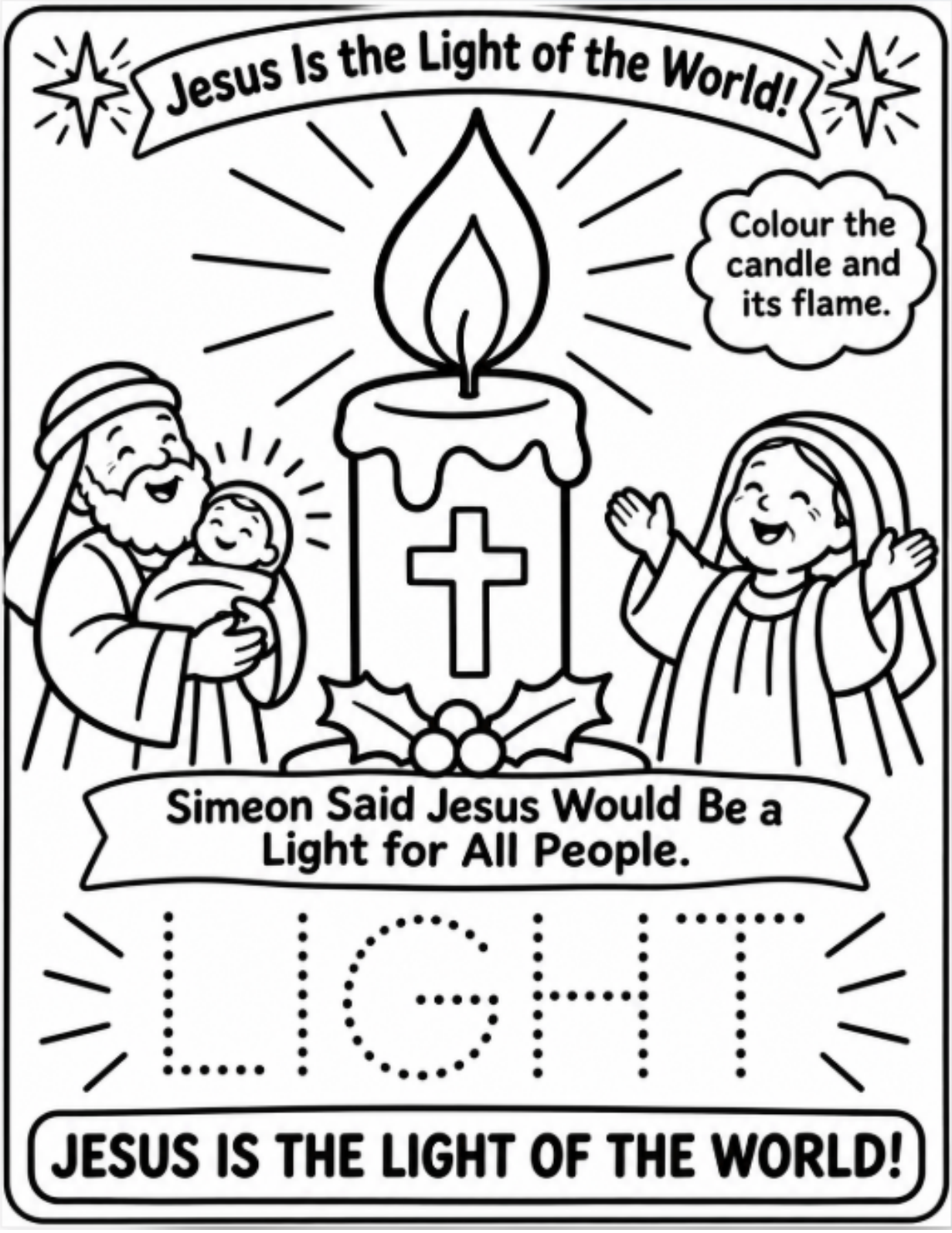

Jesus is God's Wonder Gift!

First Sunday after Christmas



Crossword - Key

Across	Down
2. Light	1. Family
7. Praise	3. God
9. Simeon	4. Temple
	5. Jesus
	6. Joseph
	8. Anna
	10. Mary

Cryptogram – Key:

Luke 1:38
Let it be with me according to your word.

Fill-in-the-Blank – Key

Mary
Joseph
Temple
Simeon
Jesus
God
Light
Anna
Thanks
Praise