

Theo Once upon a time, the world seemed to be a really dark place. Many people felt lost, lonely and scared. God promised to send someone to save his people. Someone who would help and comfort and guide his people. Someone who would be like a bright light shining in the darkness.

Anna up

Theo Anna was an old lady whose life had been very hard.

Anna I know what it's like to feel that the world is a very dark place. So I spend all my time in the Temple, where I can stay close to God.

Simeon up

Theo Simeon was a man who waited and waited. He trusted God's promises.

Simeon One day, I know I'll see God's light shining in the darkness. One day, I'll see the one who God sends to save his people. I won't ever stop hoping. I know that I'll see it happen one day.

Anna and Simeon down

Theo Well, one day, Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple, to thank God for him.

Mary (holding Jesus) and Joseph up

Theo And that very day, God told Simeon to go to the Temple.

Simeon up

Theo When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew straight away that this baby had been sent by God to save his people. It was as if Simeon could see God's glorious light shining from Jesus, taking away all the darkness in the world.

Simeon Praise God! This baby is God's light shining in the world!

Theo Of course, Anna was at the Temple that day, too, because Anna was always at the Temple. She came along just at that moment.

Anna up

Theo Anna heard what Simeon said. And because she stayed so close to God all the time, talking to him and listening to him, she knew straight away that what Simeon said was true. She knew that he was speaking God's words.

Anna Praise God! Listen, everyone! Jesus is the one we've been waiting for! He's shining God's light in the world!

Theo Today, the world still seems to be a really dark place at times. Sometimes we feel sad or lonely. Sometimes we're scared. Sometimes we just don't know what to do.

Anna But the truth is that we aren't on our own and we don't need to be afraid.

Simeon Jesus shines his light into the darkness of our world, and he has promised never to leave us.

Anna We can stay close to him by praying and reading the Bible and spending time with other Christians.

Simeon And we can trust God's promises. We can trust him to forgive us when we say sorry for getting things wrong. We can trust him to send his Holy Spirit to help us and guide us. We can trust him to answer when we pray.

Theo And then, when we see all of the amazing things that God does for us, let's not forget to praise him, just like Simeon and Anna did - and let's make sure that we pass on the good news to other people, just like they did, too.