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1. Where did the practice of presenting the first-born start?

2. What do you think Joseph and Mary were saying through this action?

3. Who were the 2 people who met the family in the Temple?

4. Underline any words/phrases that show God's plan for Jesus. Explain them in your own words:

Joseph and Mary took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male is to be dedicated to the Lord."

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah.

Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:



*"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace.  
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:  
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."*

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, *"This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will pierce your own heart."*

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

Luke 2:22b, 23, 25-35, 36a, 37b-38.

3

Give a good reason why parents should not put pressure on their children about choosing a career or a partner.

2

What does the Church say about parents and children?

"Parents must regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons."

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"When they become adults, children have the right and duty to choose their profession and state of life. Parents should be careful not to exert pressure on their children either in the choice of a profession or in that of a spouse."

Children in turn, should have "a trusting relationship with their parents, willingly

What should a young person do when trying to decide on these big issues?

