



St. David

Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

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Candlemas, February 2

This is when we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple in accordance with Jewish law. Read the story in Luke 2:22-40, or in the Read With Me Bible, p. 266.

This occasion is very important because the Baby Jesus was recognized by Simeon and Anna as the Messiah, the Christ. Candles are often used on this day to remind us that Simeon said Jesus was the Light of the World.

Act out the story. Discuss it first. It was about 12 km from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. How do you think Mary and Joseph would have travelled with the baby? What would they have needed to take with them? What might they have talked about on the way? Who would be in the Temple apart from Simeon and Anna? (Priests, Pharisees, other Jews including some from foreign countries, merchants, teachers)

With older children, find some verses or sayings about light and darkness and talk about them. There are hundreds of these. Some examples: your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Ps 119:105), darkness is as light to you (Ps 139:12), you (the disciples) are the light of the world (Mt 5:16), put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light (Rom 13:12) Use a concordance to help you find more references - this is an alphabetical index of key words from Bible passages, with the verse in which they are found. Some Bibles have a small concordance at the end.

St Caedmon, died Feb 11, 680 A.D.

Caedmon worked as a cow-herd on the estate of Whitby Abbey in England. He could not sing at all. In fact, he was so embarrassed by his voice that when feasts took place and people began to sing afterwards, he would make any excuse to get away and back to his

cows. One evening an angel appeared to him and asked him why he was so bad tempered. "Sing me a song," said the angel. "I can't," said Caedmon, and explained his problem. "Try just one more time," said the angel. "Sing to me about creation." Caedmon found he had been given a wonderful gift - a beautiful singing voice and the ability to make up poetry and melody to sing with it. When he told Abbess Hilda, she made him a monk so he could sing to all the visitors to the abbey. Caedmon learned all the wonderful stories in the Bible and made up songs about them. Sadly none of his songs have survived. You might encourage children to make up a song about a well known Bible story. If it is too difficult to compose a tune, use a well known one such as "Twinkle, twinkle little star" and make up new words.

This story would also be a good one to illustrate. Children might draw a feast taking place with the tables piled high with food, and people dancing, singing and playing instruments and Caedmon hiding in a corner, OR the cow barn with a beautiful angel on one side, and Caedmon trying to pretend he's invisible on the other side of the picture.

St David - March 1

David is the patron saint of Wales. He is sometimes called Degui or Dewi. He died around 601 A.D. Very little is known for sure about his life, but he was a Celtic monk and bishop of part of Wales. He helped to spread Christianity among the tribes of western Britain and founded several churches. Several miracles are said to have happened in his life. One took place at a synod called to decide if he should be Archbishop. A great crowd had gathered, and when David stood to speak one person shouted that he could not be seen or heard. Immediately it is said that the ground upon which he stood rose up into a hill.

On St David's day it is the custom in Wales to wear a leek in one's hat (or today often a daffodil) If you have never tried eating leeks, why not do so. Maybe you could also have a few daffodils as a centrepiece on your table.

For Fun

"My teacher yelled at me for something I didn't do."
"What?" "My homework."