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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 31, 2017

1st Sunday after Christmas

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Luke 2:22-40](#) [ **Summary:** *A Faith Community For Mary, Joseph, and Jesus* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I have a tough question for you, but I know you'll give it your best try: Can you tell me what a *community* is?
- That's right! It's a group of people who live or gather together for shared reasons.
- A community is helpful in a number of ways:
- It can teach you things that you don't yet know.
- It can remind you of things you know but have forgotten.
- It helps you to keep doing the things that the community cares about and why you joined it in the first place.
- It listens to you and cares about what you say.
- So, how many communities do you think you belong to? [ *Wait to see what they say – if anything* ]
- Well, I definitely think you belong to more than one community.
- Your family is a community.
- And here at [*name of your church*], we are a community – a *faith* community that you belong to.
- Your friends at school are a type of a community, too.

## **TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture, we hear that Jesus had a faith community, too, even when he was really young, even younger than you!
- Two of the people in that faith community were Simeon and Anna.
- In today's story, we hear Simeon talking to Mary and Joseph and what he tells them are reminders about who Jesus will be and what he will do in and for their faith community.
- And did you hear what Mary and Joseph's response was?
- That's right, they were amazed -- which tells us they were listening very carefully -- that these were really important words for Mary and Joseph to hear.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- And guess what? Just like Jesus, we too are part of a faith community where we can teach and remind each other about God, where we can share important words with each other that encourage us to keep paying attention to God.
- Just like Jesus grew up in a community that supported and encouraged him to be a person who paid attention to God, so too do you and I have a community that reminds us and teaches us about paying attention to God, here at [*name of your church*]
- So thank you for belonging to this faith community.
- I am thankful for the ways in which you learn, teach, and remind the community about God.
- And, I am very thankful for the ways in which you *will continue* to learn, teach and remind this faith community about paying attention to God.
- That's the good news for today: Let's pray...

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for this faith community...**

**Thank you for this faith community...**

**...that reminds us...**

**...that reminds us...**

**...to keep paying attention to you...**

**...to keep paying attention to you...**

**...so that we can live...**

**...so that we can live...**

**...like Jesus did.**

**...like Jesus did.**

**Thank you and amen.**