

A Pair of Turtledoves



Luke 2:21–38 · This week: We Have Come to Worship Him, Matthew 2; Luke 2

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 02, “We Have Come to Worship Him,” on Gospel Library**

START

Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple with an offering of two small birds (Luke 2:22–24; Leviticus 12:2–4).

READ TOGETHER

The law of Moses asked a new mother to bring a lamb and a bird to the temple. A family too poor to buy a lamb could bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons instead (Leviticus 12:6–8).

LUKE 2:22

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

LUKE 2:24

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

LEVITICUS 12:8

8 And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Mary and Joseph brought “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:24). That was the offering of a family that could not afford a lamb.

They had little money, and they carried the Lamb of God in their arms.

In the temple, Simeon took the child and called him “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel” (Luke 2:32). At Christmas we read about his long wait. Today we hear what he told Mary.

Simeon warned her, “a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also” (Luke 2:35). Years later, Mary would stand by the cross (John 19:25). Joy and sorrow both came with her calling.

Anna, a widow who served in the temple night and day, came in at that same moment and gave thanks (Luke 2:37–38). A poor family, a devout man, and an aged widow were among the first to recognize the Savior.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary and Joseph gave the offering of a poor family. What could we give the Lord this year that costs us something, even something small?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Mary and Joseph brought the offering of a family too poor to buy a lamb. They carried the Lamb of God into the temple in their arms.