

LESSON 3

Jesus Presented in the Temple

LUKE 2:22-52



BIBLE TRUTH

FROM THE TIME OF HIS DEDICATION AT THE TEMPLE, JESUS INCREASED IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 2:22–52 from the Scriptures or read story 81, “Jesus Presented in the Temple,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Welcome Party

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ surprise party decorations like tablecloths and balloons
- ✓ cupcakes—one per child (be aware of food allergies)
- ✓ noisemakers

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Remembering the Passover

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a plant branch with some red paint
- ✓ a picture of a lamb
- ✓ a box of crackers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 3—one copy for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Jesus Is Lost!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical index cards with the word “JESUS” printed in large capital letters and the verse reference, Luke 2:49, printed under the name.
- ✓ Bible

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus fulfilled the law—From the very beginning of his life, Jesus fulfilled the law. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised according to the everlasting covenant God made with Abraham (see Genesis 17:12). In Deuteronomy 16:6, God tells the people they must celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem (the place he chose as a dwelling for his name). Many Jews could not travel there due to distance, but those who were able to honor God’s command traveled in caravans for safety and companionship. Jesus kept the law perfectly, including these annual visits to Jerusalem. Luke 2:41 confirms that Mary and Joseph made this pilgrimage every year.

Jesus had a welcome party—Even though Jesus humbly came to earth, was born in a stable and laid in a manger, God made sure praise accompanied his advent. When Christ was born, God brought angels to sing, and wise men and shepherds to worship. And God made sure that praise accompanied Jesus when he was brought to the temple to be dedicated. Anna, a devout woman, worshiped and prayed day and night in the temple waiting for Israel’s Redeemer (Luke 2:38). As a prophetess, Anna recognized that Jesus was that Redeemer. She worshiped God and explained the significance of Jesus to those who were also waiting for redemption.

Jesus was drawn to the temple—It was common for families to make the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem in caravans for fellowship and protection. It is likely that Mary and Joseph had other younger children by this time. At age 12, Jesus was close to manhood and his parents must have assumed he was walking with another family in their caravan. Once they discovered he was missing, it took Mary and Joseph three days to find Jesus. All along, Jesus was at the temple sitting among the teachers and asking questions. When asked about his whereabouts, Jesus simply said, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). Already, Jesus was aware of his calling. He amazed those who met him, and he grew in favor with God and men.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Simeon's prayer is filled with the gospel. The Spirit of God had revealed to him that he would not die until he saw the Lord's Christ, which means God's anointed one, the Messiah (Luke 2:26). When Simeon looked upon Jesus, the Spirit confirmed that Jesus was indeed the deliverer of Israel whom God would use to bring salvation to his people. But there is more. Through Simeon's prayer, we discover that God's salvation would extend beyond the nation of Israel to the Gentiles, too (Luke 2:32). Yet God's salvation would not come with rejoicing; it would come with suffering. Simeon prophesied that Jesus the Messiah would be rejected and experience deep anguish—and his mother would experience anguish too (Luke 2:34–35). A sword pierced the side of Christ upon the cross and for Mary, the suffering of her Son must have been as a sword piercing her soul. No one, apart from Christ, would suffer more than Mary watching her Son Jesus be crucified.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 2:22–52 from the Scriptures or read story 81, “Jesus Presented in the Temple,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Welcome Party

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ surprise party decorations like tablecloths and balloons

- ✓ cupcakes—one per child (be aware of food allergies)
- ✓ noisemakers

Prior to class, decorate your classroom, and when the children come in, celebrate their arrival. Greet them by name, cheering, “We have been waiting for you!” Pass out the cupcakes and make a big deal about their coming to class. Use this as an introduction to the story of Simeon and Anna providing a special welcome for baby Jesus.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Remembering the Passover

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a plant branch with some red paint
- ✓ a picture of a lamb
- ✓ a box of crackers

The Passover is a critical component of God’s plan of redemption. Once again the Passover factors into the story line. In Luke 2:41 the Passover is being celebrated again. Use the following discussion questions to help the children recall the significance of this feast.

- **What is the significance of the lamb, branch, and blood (represented by the red paint)?**
(The people of Israel were told to place the blood of a lamb on the door frames of their homes so that the angel of death would pass over them.)
- **What did the killing of the lamb and the blood on the door frame represent?**
(The blood pointed to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. God accepts Jesus’ sacrifice and allows his judgment to pass over all those who trust in the blood of Jesus.)
- **Why did the Israelites have unleavened bread?**
(They needed to be ready to leave at a moment’s notice and didn’t have time to wait for the bread dough to rise. Once the blood was shed and the angel passed over, their salvation would come quickly. Then God led them through the Red Sea.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 3—one copy for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple?**
(Because the Old Testament Law required that they go to the temple to dedicate their son to the Lord.)

- **Who is the old man in the picture and what did he tell Mary and Joseph?**
(The old man is Simeon and he was very happy to see Jesus. He said that his eyes had finally seen God’s plan of salvation. But he also hinted that Jesus would have enemies and be pierced with a sword.)

- **Who is not in the picture who was also at the temple that day?**
(Anna is not in the picture, but she also greeted the baby Jesus.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Jesus Is Lost!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical index cards with the word “JESUS” printed in large capital letters and the verse reference, Luke 2:49, printed under the name.
- ✓ Bible

Hide one of the index cards with just a little bit sticking out of the Bible marking Luke 2:49. Then go about telling the story of how Jesus was lost. Tell the children to pretend they are members of Mary and Joseph's extended family and they need to find Jesus, who is lost. Show them the second, identical, card to give them an idea of what to look for. Then set the class on a hunt in your classroom to find Jesus. Lay your Bible off to the side, but allow the index card to stick out enough so that the children can see the beginning of the letter J. Once someone finds the card have them look up and read the listed verse and talk about why Jesus thought it was obvious he had to be in his Father's house. (Even as a little boy, Jesus must have spent a lot of time in the temple. So it would have only been natural for them to look for him there.)

LESSON 3 - JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

