

LESSON 3

Jesus Presented in the Temple

LUKE 2:22-38



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: (optional) Invite to class a mother and her baby. Ask the mother to bring the baby wrapped in a blanket that could resemble the baby Jesus' swaddling cloths.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 81)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review "Where Is the Gospel?" to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 3—one copy for each child; markers or crayons

Recite Simeon's Prayer

Anna Spreads the Word

SUPPLIES: a baby doll wrapped in a blanket

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson, the children will learn about the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord and how they met Simeon and Anna.

Invite a mother and infant to visit your class today. If possible, have the mother wrap her baby in a receiving blanket to resemble the baby Jesus' swaddling cloths. Introduce your guest and tell the children that (her name) is a clue to today's lesson. Then draw out the children to see if they can remember what part of the Bible you are learning about. You can give them clues, especially asking them what they learned about last week.

Once they guess that they will be learning about the baby Jesus, have your guest pretend to be Mary, telling them how when she and Joseph went to the temple to dedicate the baby Jesus they were greeted by two people who were very excited to see Jesus. She should share their names and tell the children they had been waiting a long time to see Jesus. Ask the children the following questions. If they don't know the answers, have them ask Mary for help. Your actress should be familiar with the answers and encourage the children to repeat the correct answers back to you.

- **Does anyone remember the names of the people who were waiting in the Temple to see the baby Jesus when his mom and dad took him there to be dedicated to the Lord?**
(You can give them clues by sounding out the first part of each of the names. There was a man named Simeon, and a woman named Anna.)
- **Why do you think they were waiting for Jesus?**
(They were waiting for the Savior God would bring to help his people.)
- **Does anyone know what Simeon did when he saw the baby Jesus?**
(If they don't know the answer, encourage them to ask Mary. He took him into his arms, praised God, and then blessed Jesus and his family with a prophetic word of encouragement.)
- **What was special about Anna's life?**
(She stayed at the temple every day praying, worshiping, and fasting, just waiting for Jesus.)

Explain to the children that Jesus was very special because he brought salvation to Israel and to us as well. It is good for us to worship, pray, and fast too. Just like Anna, we are waiting for Jesus to come again!

Take time to pray and thank God for worship. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read story 81, “Jesus Presented in the Temple,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple?**
(Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to offer a sacrifice and to present him to the Lord.)

- **Why would Mary and Joseph want to present Jesus to the Lord?**
(The law instructed families to present their first boy baby to the Lord. The firstborn male was to be holy or set apart for God.)

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.

■ **Why is this story in the Bible?**

(God wants us to see that Jesus followed the law of God in every detail. This is important because Jesus is the only person who followed all of God's law and did not sin. Here Mary and Joseph follow the commands of God while Jesus is a baby.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

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

■ **Simeon was waiting a long time to see the Messiah. How do you think he felt when he saw Jesus?**

(Accept any answer.)

■ **How did Simeon know that Jesus was the Messiah?**

(The Spirit of God moved upon his heart to make him aware.)

■ **Simeon said in his prayer, "My eyes have seen your salvation." How would baby Jesus be God's salvation?**

(Jesus would live a sinless life, then die on the cross in our place to take the punishment for our sins.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 MIN**

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

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

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.)

Recite Simeon's Prayer

Have the class repeat Simeon's prayer: "My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30–32).

You may be surprised how much of it the children will remember if you review it several times in class.

Anna Spreads the Word

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a baby doll wrapped in a blanket

Act out the last part of the story with the class. Have children play the parts of Anna, Mary, and Joseph. Have the rest of the class act out the other people in the temple. Have Anna approach Mary and Joseph and then give praise to God. Then go around to the others and speak of Jesus being the Savior to each person.

You will need to coach the person who plays Anna as well as those she speaks to. The remainder of the class can watch.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 3 - JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

