



UNIT 19 | SESSION 2

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

MATTHEW 2; LUKE 2

CHRIST CONNECTION:

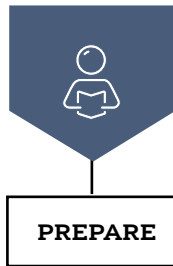
God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Savior. Jesus came to save people from sin. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins; and like Simeon and Anna, we get to tell others the good news.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:29



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

As the narrative of Jesus' early days on earth unfolded, several unique people are introduced who teach us lessons about our own journey. We find the wise men who sought Jesus with persistence, Herod whose power was threatened by this newborn King, and others such as Simeon and Anna—both who demonstrated a remarkable devotion to the Lord.

In Luke 2, Simeon and Anna are described as people who are deeply committed, faithful, and devout followers of God. Simeon is described as one who was old in years—near death—and desperately waiting for the Messiah to come. So, you can imagine the significance of that moment as Simeon saw the Christ child and rejoiced.

Anna, also old in years, had been faithfully worshiping God through fasting and prayer in the temple for 84 years. It is easy to imagine the joy she had upon seeing Jesus in the temple and her eager desire to tell everyone about this glorious child.

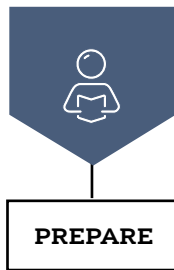
Both Simeon and Anna came upon the incredible blessing of seeing, celebrating, and worshiping Jesus because of their faithfulness to the Lord. Both were in the place the Lord wanted them to be, faithful to God over the years, and daily looking for the Lord in everything they did.

Imagine if your daily decisions were influenced by similar factors. You were deeply committed to being in the places God wanted you to be, you were seeking to be faithful over the decades, and in all that you did you were pursuing what the Lord might have for you. What would have to change in your life, in your motivations, and in your decisions to make this true of you? In what ways would you see and experience the blessings of God's good gifts even more?

Faithfulness like that of Simeon and Anna doesn't earn any additional degree of salvation before God. But it can produce more opportunities to see the work of God in your life, even if it's only because you're more attuned. What a blessing that would be for each of us as well.

TERMS TO KNOW

Dedication: the act of setting apart persons or things to God. The act is usually accompanied by an announcement of what is being done or intended and by prayer asking for divine approval and blessing.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- ☐ “Look! (John 1:29)” song

Activity page

- ☐ “What Does a Baby Need?” activity page, 1 per child

Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)

Build temples with blocks

- ☐ pictures of Bible times temples (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ stopwatch or kitchen timer

Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ “Jesus Was Dedicated” video (optional)
- ☐ storytelling tips props (optional)

Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Look! (John 1:29)” song
- ☐ baby doll

Learn the big picture question and answer

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- ☐ “Island of Hope” missions video



LOVE

Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Search in shaving cream

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ shaving cream
- ☐ plastic sheet protectors, 3
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ wet wipes



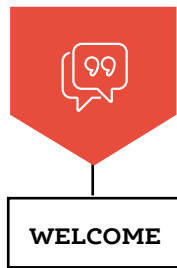
LIVE

Draw faces

- ☐ plastic plates, 1 per child
- ☐ dry erase markers, 1 per child
- ☐ paper towel, 1 per child

Investigate nature items

- ☐ nature items (rocks, flowers, leaves, seashells, twigs)
- ☐ shallow plastic storage container
- ☐ nonbreakable magnifying glasses



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “What Does a Baby Need?” on the activity page by circling the items that a baby needs.

SAY “Babies need many things to be healthy and happy. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that Mary and Joseph brought Baby Jesus to the temple. Why do you think they brought Jesus to the temple? The temple was the place people went to worship God. Listen closely to today’s story to find out who Jesus met while at the temple.”

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

WAIT AND GO



Lead the children to line up against a wall. Stand on the opposite side of the classroom. Explain that when you say Go, the children will walk toward you. When you say Wait, the children will freeze in place. Continue playing, increasing the time the children must wait for you to say Go.

SAY “Which did you enjoy more—moving or waiting? What are some things you’ve waited for? [Allow responses.] In today’s Bible story, two people waited a very long time to see Jesus. They didn’t just wait for seconds. They waited for years!”

BUILD TEMPLES WITH BLOCKS

As children arrive, challenge them to build beautiful temples with blocks. Consider printing pictures of Bible times temples to display or show temple pictures on an electronic device.

SAY “Those are fantastic temples! In today’s Bible story, we will learn about when Baby Jesus was taken to visit the temple in Jerusalem. While He was there with His parents, Jesus met two people. Who do you think those people were? Listen closely to find out.”

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to rock a baby in their arms as you transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Bring in a stopwatch or a kitchen timer and instruct children to wait a few seconds before you start the session.

SAY “ It is not usually fun to wait for things. Sometimes we only have to wait a little while—like waiting for popcorn in the microwave. But sometimes we have to wait a long time—like when you are waiting for your birthday to come. Let’s learn about some people who waited a very long time to meet Jesus. ”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Luke 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “ The Bible contains true stories that happened long ago. Today’s Bible story is about when Baby Jesus was dedicated at the temple. It is found in the book of Luke. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

“ One day, **when Jesus was still a baby, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple. The temple was the place where people went to pray and worship God.** Many years before, God had given special rules to all the people of Israel. One rule was, “When a woman’s first son is born, his parents must present him to God.” Another rule was that the child’s parents should give an offering to God. Mary and Joseph obeyed God and brought two birds as an offering.

A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem, and he loved God. He knew that God had promised to send someone special to save people from sin. God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah who would rescue people from their sins. Simeon trusted God.

That day, God told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus there, and he picked Jesus up in his arms. Simeon was so happy! Simeon knew that Jesus was special. Simeon praised God. **He prayed, “God, You kept Your promise, and I have seen the One who will save people from sin.”**

Mary and Joseph heard Simeon say those important words. Jesus was going to save people from sin! Simeon talked to Mary and Joseph. He said being Jesus’ mother would be very good, but it would be very hard. Some people would love Jesus, but other people would not like Him at all. Some things



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

would happen that would make Mary very sad.

Another woman, Anna, was in the temple. Anna was very old. She stayed at the temple all the time and worshiped God.

Anna walked toward Simeon, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. **When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked God. People had been waiting a long time for God to send the special One who would save people from sin. Anna told other people the good news: Jesus the Savior is here!**

Mary and Joseph did everything they were supposed to do at the temple. Then they went back home. **Jesus grew up, and He was strong and healthy and wise. God was happy with Jesus.** ”

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY ” God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Savior. Jesus came to save people from sin. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins; and like Simeon and Anna, we get to tell others the good news. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ” Simeon and Anna had waited so long to see Jesus. How do you think they felt when they were finally holding Baby Jesus in their arms? When God makes a promise, He always keeps it. It may not happen right away, but God’s promises are always worth the wait.

God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. But people had to wait many years before Jesus finally arrived. Did God forget His promise? No way! Jesus was born and when Mary and Joseph brought Him into the temple, Simeon and Anna saw Jesus with their very own eyes. They knew Jesus was the Savior. Jesus was the One God promised to send to save people from sin. When we put our trust in Jesus, He saves us from our sins. Just like Simeon and Anna, we can tell other people about Jesus. Who can you tell about Jesus today? ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at John 1:29. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Gather the children in a circle and pass a baby doll around as you recite each word of the verse.

SAY ” Our key passage comes from the book of John. God promised to send someone who would save us from our sin. Simeon and Anna praised God for keeping His promise to send a Savior. We can praise God too. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Look! (John 1:29).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Carry a baby doll: Hold a baby doll to represent Baby Jesus as you tell the story.

Use a puppet prop: Make a two-sided paper plate puppet featuring a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other side. Show the happy face when mentioning that Simeon was happy when he saw Baby Jesus and when Simeon told Mary that being Jesus’ mother would be very good. Flip to the sad face when Simeon said that being Jesus’ mother would be hard. Show the happy face again when talking about Anna praising God when she saw Baby Jesus.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “ Our big picture question asks, **What did Jesus do to save us?** Do you remember the answer? **Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.** Jesus became our Savior when He died to take the punishment for our sin. When Simeon and Anna saw Baby Jesus in the temple, they knew that He was the Savior. Like Simeon and Anna, we can put our trust in Jesus knowing that He saves us from our sins. ”

8 MISSIONS MOMENT

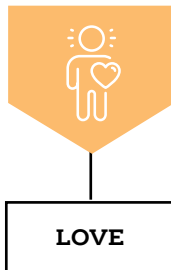
Show a world map or globe and explain to preschoolers that Puerto Rico is an island territory of the United States of America in the Caribbean Sea. Show the “Island of Hope” missions video.

SAY “ Puerto Rico has faced many difficult things in the last few years, such as difficulties with their government, problems with money, two major hurricanes, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. But God is using the great needs in the area to help missionaries tell people about Jesus. ”

Explain to preschoolers that Itamar (EE tah mahr) Elizalde’s (el ee SAL day) team leads churches and volunteers to repair homes, provide food and other items the people need. Pray that more missionaries will go tell the people about Jesus, and that more people from Puerto Rico will want to learn about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **PRAY**

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “Dear God, just like Simeon and Anna, we praise You for sending Jesus to be the Savior of the world. We put our trust in Jesus. Help us tell others about Jesus today. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

2 **SNACK AND TALK**



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

SAY “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

SAY “Why did Mary and Joseph bring Baby Jesus to the temple?”

SAY “What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.”

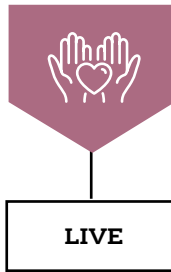
3 **SEARCH IN SHAVING CREAM**



Insert copies of the Bible story picture, key passage, and big picture question posters into plastic sheet protectors. Make additional copies and provide more plastic sheet protectors if needed. Cover the table with a plastic tablecloth and place a smock on each child. Lay a poster on the table and squirt a small amount of shaving cream on top. Give the child a craft stick and instruct her to spread the shaving cream, covering the poster. Invite her to use the straight edge of the craft stick to move the shaving cream off the page to reveal the picture or words underneath. Remind children to not touch their faces while shaving cream is on their hands. Keep wet wipes nearby to clean messy fingers.

SAY “What did you see under the shaving cream? Anna and Simeon had been waiting to see the Messiah. Finally, after many years, they saw Him with their eyes! They didn’t have to go search for Jesus because He came to them at the temple with Mary and Joseph. God loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus came to save us from our sin.”





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

FIGURE OUT THE EMOTION



Draw a happy, sad, and surprised face on separate pieces of construction paper. Hang each face on a different classroom wall. Instruct the children to point or stand next to the emotion that someone might have felt as you retell the story. At various points in the story, ask “how did he/she feel?” Below are some story points.

- God promised Simeon he would someday see the Messiah, but he had to wait.
- Anna spent all her time in the temple.
- Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God.
- God told Simeon to go to the temple where he was able to hold Baby Jesus.
- Anna saw Baby Jesus with her own eyes and thanked God.
- Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus home where He grew healthy and strong.

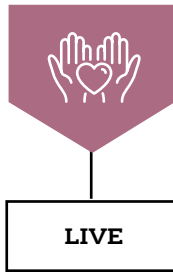
SAY “ There were many emotions in our Bible story today. Can you imagine waiting so long for a promise from God? How would you have felt? **[Allow responses.]** After waiting so long, Simeon and Anna were finally able to hold God’s promised Savior. Have you ever held a baby? How did you feel? **[Allow responses.]** How would you have felt if you got to hold Baby Jesus? Jesus grew up and then died on the cross and rose from the dead. Like God promised, Jesus saved people from their sin!

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. ”

DRAW FACES

Write sin in large letters on construction paper prior to the session. Distribute plastic plates and dry erase markers to children and instruct them to draw an old man face, an old woman face, and then their face. Use a paper towel to erase the marker. Finally, instruct the children to write the word sin across their plate before erasing it. Refer to the construction paper to assist children in spelling sin.

SAY “ It was fun to draw different faces. It was easy to erase everything with the paper towel. Do you know what the word sin means? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. God promised He would send a Savior. When Simeon and Anna saw Baby Jesus, they knew that He was the One God sent to save people from their sin. When we trust in Jesus and follow Him, He removes our sin, just like the paper towel removed the marker. That is good news we can share with others. ”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

INVESTIGATE NATURE ITEMS



Post an allergy alert. Place nature items such as rocks, flowers, leaves, seashells, and twigs in a shallow plastic storage container. Set the container on the floor or table. Invite children to investigate the nature items using nonbreakable magnifying glasses and their hands. Ask children what similarities and differences they notice between the colors, textures, and smells of the items.

SAY “ God made the rocks, flowers, trees, and seashells! What else do we see outside that God has made? When we see these things we can remember how great our God is! When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Messiah God had promised to send to the earth. They knew that Jesus came to save people from sin. Simeon and Anna praised God and told others this good news. Like Simeon and Anna, we can tell others the good news of Jesus! ”

PRACTICE SAYING WORDS IN SPANISH



Point to Puerto Rico on a world map or globe. Comment that Puerto Rico is an island territory of the United States and that Spanish and English are the official languages. Practice saying words in Spanish to tell someone about Jesus. Begin with common greetings and then include other phrases. Possible examples: hello—*hola* (OHL ah); goodbye—*adiós* (ah dee OHS); Jesus loves you—*Jesús te ama* (tay ah mah). Allow time for each preschooler to say the words to a friend. Pray that the people of Puerto Rico will want to learn more about Jesus from the missionaries who are there to help them.

SAY “ Because of damage from hurricanes and earthquakes, people in Puerto Rico needed help. Mission teams led by Send Relief Ministry Coordinator, Itamar (EE tah mahr) Elizalde (el ee SAL day), came to help repair homes and provide needed items for people in Puerto Rico. While the missionaries and volunteer teams help the people with their homes, they also tell the people about Jesus. Just like Simeon and Anna, these missionaries tell others the good news about Jesus! ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.