

Jesus was Dedicated

Luke 2

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth to save us.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- John 3:16

Story Point:

Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.



PREPARE HEARTS

- Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- Lesson Review - Jesus was Dedicated
- Discussion Questions
- Group Activity: The Holy Spirit Helps Us SEE Jesus



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Group Game: Set Apart
- Share and Care Prayer Time
- Group Activity: Worship While We Wait

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Though falling out of fashion more recently, a traditional wedding registry often included a set of fine china. These dishes were reserved for special occasions and kept in display cabinets when not in use. You may remember admiring these seemingly priceless pieces, rarely touched but deeply treasured. China dishes had a special purpose and were set apart in ways that our daily use dishes never were. In a much greater way, Christians are called to be set apart for the purposes of God. When we join our hearts to Jesus, He bestows on us a new mission and purpose for our lives. Christ invites us to participate in the work of building His kingdom as we dedicate ourselves to Him. This week, we'll explore the story of Jesus' dedication at the temple. Read Luke 2 and reflect on these truths:

Believers are called to dedicate their lives to God's purposes. Submission can be a difficult pill to swallow. Our sin nature urges us to pursue our own way instead of following where God leads. But as believers, we are called to surrender our lives fully to God, trusting that His plans for us are good. When we do, we allow ourselves to be used for His glory and for our ultimate good.

We can worship God with faithful expectation. God never promised ease in this life. In fact, following Him can be hard. But our hope isn't in comfort or circumstances—it's in His kingdom. We trust that God is always at work, both in the world and in our hearts. We live with a forward-looking hope, knowing Jesus will one day restore all things.

We can share our hope in Jesus with others. Both Simeon and Anna recognized that Jesus was the promised Messiah who would bring light to all people, regardless of their background. Anna shared the news about Jesus with others who had been waiting for the Messiah. We are called to do the same. Jesus transforms our hearts, gives us the hope we long for, and leads us into the abundant lives we were created to live. That's hope worth sharing and news worth spreading.

As you lead kids this week, point them to Jesus' invitation—not just to trust Him for forgiveness, but to step into the full, flourishing life He offers. Jesus dedicated Himself fully to the mission the Father gave Him. Because of that, we're invited to dedicate ourselves to God and live the life we were made for—in a restored relationship with our great and loving God.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God keeps His promises.
- *BE patient when they have to wait.
- *SEE God in the world around them and respond with worship.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day

What's something you've had to wait a long time for?

Maybe its waiting for your birthday or Christmas... or maybe it's waiting for a special event with your family or at school. Whatever it is, waiting can be hard!

Why does God make us wait?

Waiting is one of the hardest parts of life. We wait for answers. We wait for change. We wait for things to get better. And sometimes we wonder, "If God loves, me , why doesn't He do something now?" The Bible doesn't avoid this question - it faces it honestly. God's people had to wait. Abraham waited years for God's promise. Joseph waited in prison, David waited to become king after God chose him. And we see in our story today that Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives to see Jesus. They weren't being punished and they weren't forgotten. They were being formed.

So why doesn't God just give us what we want right away?

Because real faith isn't quick, it's something that has to grow. Waiting is confusing sometimes. God never asks us to pretend it's easy. But He does invite us to trust Him, because He has proven Himself trustworthy.

Think about it:

- A coach doesn't build strength in his players by removing every challenge.
- A teacher doesn't build knowledge in their students by just giving all the answers.
- A loving parent doesn't say "yes" to things their child isn't ready for.

God isn't rushing your growth. He's building a faith that can stand when life gets hard. Waiting isn't God ignoring you, it's God preparing you!



KIDS
WORSHIP

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Jesus was Dedicated

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Luke 2. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

Believers are called to dedicate their lives to God’s purposes (Luke 2:25-38):

Simeon and Anna dedicated their lives to serving and worshipping the Lord.

We can worship God with faithful expectation (Luke 2:25-28): The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would see the Messiah before he died.

We can share our hope in Jesus with others (Luke 2:38): After Anna met Jesus, she spoke about Him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

The law of the Lord required every firstborn male to be dedicated to the Lord. So, when Jesus was about a week old, Joseph and Mary brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. They also brought a sacrifice of two birds to the temple, just as the law said.

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was a righteous man, and he was looking forward to the comfort and salvation of God’s people that God had promised through his prophets many years ago.

The Holy Spirit was on Simeon, and it had been revealed to him that he would see the Lord’s Messiah before he died. The Holy Spirit guided Simeon to enter the temple. When Joseph and Mary brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon took the child up in his arms, praised God, and said,

“Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised.

For my eyes have seen your salvation.

You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory to your people Israel.”

Joseph and Mary were amazed about what Simeon was saying about Jesus. Simeon blessed them, and he told Mary that Jesus would be a very important leader of God’s people but that He would also be rejected by many people.

A prophetess named Anna was also at the temple that day. She was an elderly widow who was always at the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. At the same time Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph, Anna came up to them. She began to thank God and speak about Him to everyone who was looking forward to the salvation God had promised.

Then Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to their town of Nazareth in Galilee.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah who God promised to save people from their sins. By trusting in Jesus, we can be saved from our sins and, like Simeon and Anna, praise God for His salvation.

Who was the man in the temple, and what was he waiting for? [Allow responses.] (Read Luke 2:25-26.) God had told Simeon that he would live to see God's promised Messiah. That was Jesus! Simeon trusted God and waited patiently for Him to keep His promise. **What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?** (Read Luke 2:28-32.) Simeon praised God, because he knew this child would one day set free the people of God. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a King who would redeem all people. Generations of Jews looked forward to the day God would fulfill His promise. There was also a woman at the temple named Anna. She was very old and spent day and night at the temple worshiping God. When Jesus arrived, Anna knew He was the promised Messiah, God's own Son. He came to rescue everyone who would trust in Him, Jews and non-Jews alike. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah who God promised to save people from their sins.

If you were at the temple that day, how do you think you would respond to seeing Baby Jesus? [Allow responses.] Jesus is our Savior too. By trusting in Jesus, we can be saved from our sins and, like Simeon and Anna, praise God for His salvation. Jesus was set apart, or dedicated, for a rescue mission to save us. In a similar way, Christians live as people set apart for God. He changes people's hearts to love God and live for Him.



Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Zechariah remembered God's promises to provide salvation for His people, and he praised God. What Old Testament stories can you remember that point to Jesus?

Review various Old Testament stories such as how God saved Noah from the flood, just as Jesus would save people from sin. Or how God promised He would bless the whole world through Abraham's family, and Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. Invite kids to share what they've learned throughout the Old Testament.

Why was John called a prophet of the Most High? Tell kids that John was called a prophet of the Most High because God gave him the special job of preparing people for the coming of Jesus. A prophet is someone who delivers God's message, and John's message was to call people to repent (turn away from their sins) and get ready for the Savior. Yet unlike other prophets, John pointed people directly to Jesus, calling Him "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

John was a witness for Jesus. How can you be a witness for Jesus? Share how God tells us that if we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we are to be witnesses for Him in the world, sharing the good news with other people. Believers want to share the gospel so others can experience forgiveness and hope through faith in Jesus. Remind kids that we can also be a witness through our actions as we live in ways that honor God and point people to Jesus.



The Holy Spirit helps us SEE Jesus

- Envelopes with eye pictures and names

Divide the class into 6 groups. Give each group an envelope with pictures of different eyes and matching names.

Have the children work together to match the eye to the name of the animal.

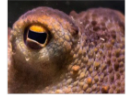
The group that matches all of them correctly wins!

SAY: Simeon didn't just recognize Jesus by himself - the Holy Spirit helped him know who Jesus was. The Holy Spirit guided him to the temple at the right moment and showed him that Jesus was the Savior God promised. We can't fully understand Jesus on our own either. Just like these pictures, we can only see a part of the whole. But God doesn't leave us to figure it out by ourselves, His Spirit helps us see who Jesus is, trust Him, and follow Him.

Ask: Where do you need God to guide you? Home? School? Friends? Feelings? Choices?

Remind the children that God guides us and helps us see the truth.

Alligator
Giraffe
Gorilla
Tiger
Dog
Octopus
Parrot
Sheep
Goldfish
Frog



Set Apart Game

- None

We've learned so much today from our Bible story! Let's play a fun game to help us remember an important truth from God's Word.

Write "Set Apart" on the white board. Choose one player as "the caller" while the rest of the group finds a place to stand around the room. The caller calls out a specific trait, such as "If you are wearing blue" or "If you have a pet."

Any players who match the trait must move to the area designated by the white board and remain there. The game continues as the caller keeps naming traits until all players are set apart.

Play multiple rounds as time allows, choosing a new caller for each round.

SAY: This game helped us think about what it means to be set apart. Just like certain players were chosen to move to the designated area, God calls Christians to be different from the world by living for Him. In our Bible story, Jesus was dedicated at the temple, showing that His life was set apart for a special purpose. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

Followers of Jesus are also set apart. First Peter 2:9 says, 'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.' This means that Christians belong to God, and their lives should show that they follow Him.

Being set apart doesn't mean Christians better than others—it means they have received God's grace through Jesus and can trust Him in helping them live differently in loving others and sharing the good news of Jesus. Just like in the game, we were chosen based on different traits, but God sets us apart based on our faith in Him. If you believe in Jesus, how can you show this week that you are set apart for God? [Allow responses.]



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Hallead Family**)
- Ppacific prayer requests from any of the kids about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Hallead Family.



Worship While We Wait

- Worship While you Wait half-sheet
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers

Simeon and Anna waited a long time for God's promise but they didn't quit or give up.

- They prayed.
- They worshiped.
- They stayed close to God every day.
- They didn't just wait – they waited with hope.

Sometimes we wait too – for answers, for help, for change, for things to get better. Waiting can feel slow and hard. But when we stay close to God, He grows our faith while we wait. Waiting isn't wasted when we worship God in the middle of it.

Pass out the "Worship while You Wait" worksheet. Talk about what they normally do when they have to wait.... do they:

- Play on a tablet or phone?
- Complain?
- Pray?
- Get impatient?
- Distract themselves?
- Watch TV?
- Ask God for help?
- Try to stay hopeful?
- Other?

Have them color in the pictures and talk about the different situations and what they can do out of the options listed while they wait. Have them draw lines to from the picture to what they would do in that situation.

Talk about how worship is more than singing, it means loving God with our hearts, words and actions. Talk about how Simeon and Anna worship God and how can they can worship God this week.

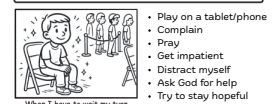
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WHAT CAN I DO WHILE I WAIT?



When I have to wait my turn



When I'm waiting for God to answer a prayer



When I'm going through something tough



When I feel alone



When I am hopeful

WAITING TIME CAN BE WORSHIP TIME