

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

- Welcome - Bible Story Word Search
- Starter Activity - Patience Pass



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- Review and discuss the Bible Story
- Reflection and Prayer
- Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Key Passage Activity - Disappearing Verse
- Group Activity: God Keeps His Promises
- Group Activity - Ambiguous Images

SHEPHERD GUIDE

The story of Jesus' dedication in the temple further reveals Him to be the expected Messiah—the chosen One promised to bring salvation to all who repent and believe. Here we discover that Simeon and Anna were patiently waiting for God's Messiah to enter the world, and through their words, we learn that Jesus is worthy of worship and that He would usher in salvation and redemption for both the Israelites and the Gentiles.

We can also see a correlation between Simeon's words and those of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, who said:

- "And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it." (Isaiah 40:5)
- "I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations." (42:6)
- "All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God." (52:10)

These Old Testament prophecies, written long before Christ was born, were receiving their first sparks of fulfillment through His arrival.

Simeon and Anna were well-acquainted with the Scriptures and believed in God's promise of the coming Messiah. Luke 2, verse 27 tells us that the Spirit led Simeon into the temple to see Jesus face to face. In verse 38, Anna praised God in the temple, declaring Jesus to be the promised Redeemer for Jerusalem. Simeon and Anna intimately knew the God of their salvation and believed by faith that Jesus really was their long-awaited Messiah.

As you lead your kids this week, help them understand how Jesus is worthy of our worship. Lead them to look to God's Word to see that Jesus really is the Son of God who made the way to save people from their sins.

Ask the Lord to guide you as you proclaim His power to save, just as Simeon and Anna did centuries ago. May you be found faithful and expectantly waiting for the Messiah's return, beholding His glory and declaring His good news to all who will hear.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 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 children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. 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 first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WELCOME Bible Story Word Search

- Activity page
- pencils
- markers

Have you ever seen or met a famous person? Who was it? How did you react when you met or saw that person?

Invite kids to complete the “Bible Story Word Search” activity page.

Great job finding each word from our lesson in the word search! Listen for those words during our session today.



STARTER Patience Pass

- Ping Pong Balls
- Spoons
- Buckets/bins

Divide the kids into two teams. Line the teams up shoulder to shoulder and place an empty bucket/bin at the end of each line, and a bin full of table tennis balls on the opposite side of the line.

Give the kid standing closest to the table tennis balls on each team a spoon.

They will put a table tennis ball on their spoon and pass it down the line. The last kid will drop the ball into the empty bucket. The team will then pass the spoon back down the line. They will repeat this process until time is up.

The team to successfully transport the most table tennis balls wins.

SAY: It took patience to pass the table tennis balls without dropping them. Simeon and Anna had waited a long time to see God’s promised salvation. In today’s story, we will see that Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K - 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus was Dedicated

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What is the Bible about? The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus.

Open your Bible to Luke 2.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Discuss Dedication: Share that it was Jewish tradition to dedicate the firstborn male to the Lord. Today, baby dedications show that parents want to raise their children to know God and His Word.

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.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

**

In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

Simeon had obediently followed God and awaited the coming Messiah. And just as God had faithfully kept His promise to His people through the birth of Jesus, He was faithful to keep His promise to Simeon. **What did Simeon say his eyes had seen?** [Allow responses.] Simeon was ready to die in peace, knowing he had seen Jesus, God's plan to save people from sin. But Simeon also told Mary and Joseph what would happen in the future. Through Simeon, God revealed that not everyone would accept Jesus as God's Son. The good news of Jesus is for everyone, but only those who follow Him as Lord and Savior will be saved.

Who was the prophetess that was also at the temple on that day? [Allow responses.] Anna had been serving God, and when she saw Mary and Joseph holding Jesus, she thanked God for fulfilling His promise. Anna's response reminds us that Jesus deserves our worship!

Why does Jesus deserve our worship? [Allow responses.] Jesus is worthy of our praise because He is God. He has done what we could not do. He came to save us from our sin. And like Anna, we too can share the good news of Jesus with those around us!

God kept His promise to send Jesus, the Messiah, to save people from their sins. God will keep His promise to save everyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord.



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God always keeps His promises. That Jesus was dedicated, or set apart, holy. He had a special mission and lived a perfect life.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I can wait joyfully and with patience like Simeon and Anna did. That I can worship God, thank Him for being trustworthy, and share Jesus to those around me.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 19, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- If the entire Bible points to Jesus, why don't we see Jesus' name in the Old Testament?
- What is your favorite way to praise Jesus for being the Savior?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:16.

Key Passage Activity:

SAY: Our key passage reminds us that God loves us so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Like Simeon and Anna, we too can worship Jesus as Lord.

Disappearing Verse

Write the key passage on the dry erase board and review it several times as a group.

- Key Passage Poster

Choose one kid to erase a word and draw a line where the word was. Repeat the verse as a class.

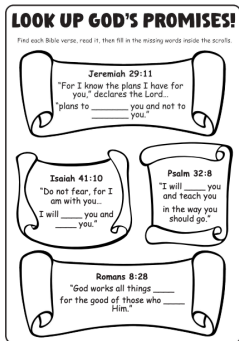
That kid will choose another kid to erase another word. Repeat the verse, saying the missing words as you go. Continue in this way until the whole verse is erased.

Challenge the kids to say the whole verse together.



God Keeps His Promises

- Bibles
- Verses
- God's Promises half-sheet



SAY: To Simeon and Anna, it felt like they had been waiting forever for the coming Savior. But God had made a promise, and He never forgets His promises. The Holy Spirit told Simeon he would see the Savior before he died. Anna spent her days praying and worshiping, trusting God's plan. When they finally saw Jesus, they knew right away: God keeps His promises!

What are some other examples in the Bible of people who waited for God's promises to be fulfilled? Pass out a slip of paper with one of the following verses to each table group. Have them look up the verse and write down who waited for God's promises.

- Romans 4:18
- Genesis 50:20
- Numbers 14:34
- 2 Samuel 2:1

Come back together as a class and have each group share what they found. Talk about how God kept his promises in each of those situations.

SAY: Sometimes we wait too. It's not easy, but we can trust that God hears us, sees us, and is always working, even when we don't see it yet.

Pass out the "God's Promises" half-sheet. Assign a scroll to each table. Have them look up their verse and fill in the blanks. Once they are done, have them share their verse with the rest of the class so they can fill in the remaining verses.

*Option - Once they find their verse and fill in the blanks, have the whole class stand up and rotate from one table to the next, leaving their Bibles open to their passage. The next group who comes to the table will find the verse from the open passage and write it down. Once everyone is done, have everyone stand up again and rotate to the next table and repeat until every group has been to all four tables.



Ambiguous Images

- Pictures of ambiguous images

Show the pictures of ambiguous images. They are pictures that show two images as one.

Ask the class what they see and then try to help them see the other images.

Talk about how some people in the temple only saw a baby, but Simeon and Anna saw the Savior.

Explain how we should see Jesus as our Savior. As a class, come up with a list of how we can see Jesus, such as - kind, loving, keeps His promises, all-powerful, gives good things, all-knowing, always with us.

Write their ideas on the white board and then pray to Jesus and thank Him for coming to earth as a baby to save us from our sins. Thank him for letting us see Him through the stories of the Bible and through the creation around us and through His Holy Spirit working in our hearts.

