



Use Week of:

## Unit 19 • Session 4

# Jesus Was Dedicated

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2

### STORY POINT:

Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:1-2

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)

**PAGE 54**



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)

**PAGE 56**



**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)

**PAGE 62**



Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [Ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject](http://Ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

God had chosen Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly parents. Mary and Joseph named their baby Jesus, obeying God in faith that salvation had indeed come into the world. (See Matt. 1:21.) When the time came for Jesus to be dedicated and Mary to be purified, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem.

According to the law given to Moses, after a woman gave birth, she was "unclean" and would observe a period of purification. Then she would bring an offering to the priest. (See Lev. 12:1-6.) Jesus was about five weeks old when Mary and Joseph dedicated Him to the Lord and offered the required sacrifice.

Simeon was also at the temple that day, not by mere coincidence but by the Holy Spirit's leading. (Luke 2:27) Simeon spent His life serving the Lord and looked forward to the day when God would keep His promise to comfort Israel. (See Isa. 57:18.) God promised that Simeon would live long enough to see the Messiah. That day had finally come. Imagine his joy. At last, the Savior was here!

Simeon saw the baby Jesus, took Him in his arms, and praised God. Simeon expressed prophetic praise, trusting by faith that God would keep His promise through this child: "My eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30). Through Jesus, everyone would be able to see God's plan. Jesus would be a light for all the nations. He would bring honor to Israel.

Anna, a prophetess, also praised too. At well over a hundred years old, Anna began to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to God's bringing salvation to His people.

Today, we can have faith in Jesus and His finished work on the cross for our salvation. When God opens our eyes to the good news of the gospel, we can live and die in peace, for our eyes have seen His salvation. We can joyfully share this good news with others.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Was Dedicated

*Luke 2*

Mary and Joseph's baby—God's own Son—was a few days old when Mary and Joseph named Him Jesus, just like the angel had told them to do. **One day, when Jesus was a few weeks old, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem.**

Mary and Joseph wanted to obey God and His law. The law that God gave Moses said, "When a woman's first son is born, his parents must dedicate him to the Lord." The law also said that the child's parents should give a sacrifice. **At the temple, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to the Lord and offered two birds as a sacrifice.**

**Another man was at the temple.** His name was Simeon. Simeon loved God, and He trusted in God's promise to send a Messiah to save people from sin. **God's Spirit was with Simeon, and God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the One who would rescue people from their sin.**

That day, God's Spirit had led Simeon to the temple. **Simeon saw Jesus and picked Him up in his arms.** God's Spirit showed Simeon that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Simeon was so happy. He praised God and said, "Lord, you can let me die now. You kept Your promise, and I have seen the One



who will save people from sin.” **Simeon said that Jesus would save God’s people, the Israelites, and Jesus would also save people from other nations.**

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said. Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph. He told Mary that being Jesus’ mother would be a very good thing, but it would also be very hard. Some people would love Jesus, but others would hate Him. Things were going to happen that would make Mary very sad.

**A woman named Anna was at the temple too.** Anna’s husband had died, and Anna was very old. She stayed at the temple and worshiped God all the time. **Anna came up to Simeon, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and she began to thank God. Anna talked about Jesus to people who were waiting for God to keep His promise to send a Savior. She told them the good news: the Savior was here!**

**Mary and Joseph finished dedicating Jesus and making sacrifices to God.** They obeyed God’s law. Then they went back home to Nazareth. **Jesus grew up and was strong and healthy. He was wise, and God was happy with Him.**

*Christ Connection: Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a king who would redeem people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God’s Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Act it out:** Choose four volunteers to silently act out the story as you tell it. Provide a baby doll as the baby Jesus.
- **Use hand gestures:** Capture kids’ attention by moving your hands as you tell the story. Raise them as Simeon speaks or hold them to your head like Jesus’ amazed parents.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Dedicated

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2

**STORY POINT:** Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss things they really want to do someday. When will they do those things?

**SAY** • We often have things we want to see or do in our lives. In our story today, we will learn about two people who finally got to experience something they had hoped to for many years. How do you think you would feel?

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Waiting for Whom?” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Waiting for Whom?” activity page. Kids will find the letters scattered in the picture and unscramble them to reveal the words *Jesus Messiah*. If kids get stuck, remind them that the letters are color-coded with the blanks they can go in.

**SAY** • God had promised to send the Messiah, and now that Jesus was in the world, that promise was fulfilled. Today we will learn about two people specifically who had been waiting to meet the Messiah. How do you feel when you are waiting for things?

## Session starter (10 minutes)

**LOW  
PREP**

### OPTION 1: Jesus is ...

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Ask each kid to say a word that describes Jesus. Tell the kids not to say the same word as someone else. Be ready to help kids who get stuck or who had a word in mind when someone else said it first. For an added twist, challenge the kids to work their way through the alphabet, providing a word that starts with each letter.

**SAY** • Those were some great things to say about Jesus. Jesus is God the Son, and He is perfect and wonderful. He is our Savior and King. Today we will hear a story about a time Mary and Joseph heard some incredible things about their baby boy from two people who had just recently met Him!

### OPTION 2: How long?

Give each kid three or four index cards and a pencil. Provide scenarios and instruct the kids to write down how long they would wait in the scenario. Then help the kids line up in order by how long they would wait. Play additional rounds as time allows.

• index cards, 3 or 4  
per kid  
• pencils

Suggested scenarios:

- You are in line for the best roller coaster.
- You are waiting for tickets to a cool new movie.
- You are waiting for a dance recital to begin.

**SAY** • We don't all agree on what is worth waiting for, but today we will learn about two people who knew they were waiting on something spectacular. What do you think they were waiting for?

## Transition to teach the story

# TEACH the Story



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## Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire

· camera on a strap

*[Leader enters wearing casual clothing and carrying a camera on a strap.]*

**LEADER** • Holy moly! You all won't believe what was just announced in *Photography Semi-Quarterly* magazine. A special new model of a camera is going to be released soon. It's going to have the most powerful optical zoom lens ever invented and a special infrared flash to make night-vision photos easier than ever. Basically, anyone who takes photography seriously will be eagerly waiting for this puppy to drop. It's got a hefty price tag, so I'm going to start saving up for it so I can buy it as soon as it goes on sale. I wonder if they might publish a semi-quarter-off coupon in the magazine. I wonder how much off that would actually be.

Anyway, I wanted to share that exciting news. I suppose for many of you that may not seem very

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

exciting, but for photography enthusiasts it will be worth the wait. You know, that makes me think of a Bible story where two people experienced something that was definitely worth the wait. Let me tell you about it.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Part of the story will make more sense if we remember our big picture question and answer. Can anyone say it for us? [*Allow responses.*] Great job! ***Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*** This means that Jesus completely understands what it feels like to be human. He can relate to our fears, our frustrations, the ways we are tempted, and our pain and sadness. Jesus also has all the power and glory of God. He is God the Son and was able to bear on the cross the full weight of God's anger toward sin.

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • Jesus had an earthly family, just as we do. **Jesus' family line proved He is the Messiah.** Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises to Adam, Abraham, David, and more. Then we learned that God sent a messenger to go before Jesus just as He promised He would. **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.** Last week, we finally got to the moment God's people had been waiting for: **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** This week, we'll learn about the time Jesus was dedicated in the temple.



- Bibles
- “Jesus Was Dedicated” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Dedicated.”

**LEADER** • One thing I want to point out is that Mary and Joseph obeyed the laws God had given His people about how to present a baby at the temple. Jesus’ parents knew Jesus was God’s Son and were committed to raising Him the way God said to raise children. Jesus’ whole life perfectly fulfilled God’s laws, even when He was just a baby!

It’s also interesting to see that Simeon found Jesus in the temple because God’s Spirit led him there. God told Simeon that he would live to see the day the Messiah arrived, and God is always faithful. Simeon praised God and declared the truth about Jesus: He would save people from sin. The nation of Israel had been waiting for years and years to see the Messiah, but not everyone lived to meet Him. What a special feeling that must have been for Simeon.

After Anna met Jesus, she began to tell those around her about Jesus. She understood God’s faithfulness too. The people had been waiting for salvation, and the One who would provide it had finally arrived. **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.**

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • Simeon and Anna did not just understand who Jesus is; they told others about Him and what He would do. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a King who would redeem

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God's Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 19, Session 4" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how we will know when Jesus returns to earth. Guide them to discuss what they think it will be like.

· "Unit 19, Session 4"  
Questions from Kids  
video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the "Relentless Love (Part 2)" missions video.

**LEADER** • We have been learning about missionaries in Brazil. In a previous video, we met missionaries Brandi and Amanda. They want people in Brazil to know Jesus personally and to worship Him, like **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.** Brandi and Amanda led another woman named Amanda to Jesus, and now God can use her to share the good news with even more people!

· "Relentless Love  
(Part 2)" missions  
video

Pray for Amanda, other new believers in Brazil, and the missionaries your church supports.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 1:1-2. Then sing the key passage song.

· Key Passage Poster  
· "The Word Was God  
(John 1:1-2)" song

**LEADER** • John began his book with this key passage. His writing, inspired by God, helps us understand Jesus' nature. Jesus has always existed. Even though His life as a human had a starting point, God the Son has

no beginning and no end. At the start of creation, Jesus was already there. He was with God the Father and God the Spirit then, and He is eternally God the Son.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• “Jesus Messiah” song

**LEADER** • Jesus was no ordinary baby. Anna and Simeon understood who Jesus is and told others about Him. He is the Messiah. Let’s sing praises to Him. Sing together “Jesus Messiah.”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord, You are good and Your mercy goes on forever. We praise You alone because of who You are and what You have done. Help us trust You daily. Make our obedience an overflow of our love for You. Thank You for sending Jesus the Messiah to save us. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Break the key passage into a few phrases. Teach the kids a call and response chant where you say a phrase and they say it back to you. Work your way through the entire key passage in this way, then select a volunteer to lead the call and response without your help. Repeat this process as time allows, selecting new kids to lead each time.

**SAY** • Jesus' life as a human started when Mary became pregnant, but God the Son existed long before that. In fact, He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist. That is what our key passage teaches. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the start of creation, and He is God the Son.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• Story Point Poster  
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set  
(005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 2. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to show the location of Jerusalem. Explain that the temple, where today's Bible story was set, would have been in Jerusalem. Remind the kids that the Gospels division contains four accounts of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple as a baby? (*to dedicate Him according to God's law, Luke 2:22-23*)
2. Why did Simeon say "You can let me die now"? (*Simeon had seen God fulfill His promise to send the Messiah, Luke 2:29-32*)
3. Whom did Anna tell about Jesus? (*those who had been waiting on the Lord's salvation, Luke 2:38*)
4. How would Jesus provide salvation? *Guide kids to think about Jesus' death on the cross. Remind the kids that the fair payment of sin is death and that Jesus died in our place. He took on the punishment of God's anger toward sin and died. Then He rose again to prove His sacrifice was enough.*
5. What are ways people might respond to Jesus? *Discuss the reactions of Simeon and Anna, who were excited and happy and told others about Jesus. Then discuss why some people might not believe the good news, or might feel it is too good (or they are too bad) to accept the gospel as true. Point out that some people might think they know Jesus but never have a real relationship with Him.*
6. What other promises has God given us? *Remind kids that God has promised salvation to everyone who trusts in Jesus. He has promised to send Jesus back to fix everything sin has broken. He has promised to give us new life, joy, and peace through Jesus. Help kids understand that He has not promised an easy life.*

**SAY • Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.**

Jesus is the Messiah, and we can worship Him too.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

- “Missionaries Who Travel” printable
- scissors
- luggage, 3 differently sized pieces

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.



**OPTION 1:** To the ends of the earth

Print and cut apart the “Missionaries Who Travel” printable. Place each missionary description in a piece of luggage that corresponds to the length of travel described. For example, place the description of a volunteer missionary in the smallest bag, the description of a short-term missionary in the medium bag, and the description of the career missionary in the largest bag.

**SAY** • At some point, God may call you to travel to another place to be a missionary. You might go for just a few days or weeks. Maybe you will spend a few months or a year in another country. Or perhaps you will move with your family to a new home where you will tell people about Jesus for many years to come. No matter where God tells you to go, you can be part of telling others the good news of Jesus so they can worship Him as the Messiah.

**OPTION 2:** Praise songs

Form groups of about five kids. Provide each group with a sheet of paper and pencil. You may pass out Bibles and help kids find Luke 2:29-32. Encourage the kids to work in their groups to write songs praising Jesus as the Messiah. Be prepared to help them rhyme words, or suggest popular tunes their songs could be sung to. Allow each group a chance to sing their song for the rest of the groups.

**SAY** • Wow, those were some great new songs. Worshiping Jesus is one of the most worthwhile things we can do. Jesus is our perfect Savior. He is our Creator and King. We can worship Him by loving others, obeying Him, or giving Him the glory in our lives. We can

## LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils
- Bibles (optional)

also sing these songs we've written. **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.** Who can you teach your song to help them worship Jesus too?

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.