



UNIT 19 | SESSION 2  
**JESUS WAS DEDICATED**  
LUKE 2

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God loved the world and gave his only Son to all who believe in him.  
John 3:16

**BABIES GOSPEL GEMS**

- Joseph and Mary took Baby Jesus to the temple to present Him to God.
- In the temple, Simeon and Anna saw Jesus and thanked God for keeping His promise.
- God sent His Son, Jesus, as our Savior. He grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary took Him to the temple where people went to pray and worship God. They brought Jesus to present Him to God. That day, God told a man named Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus and held Him in his arms. Simeon was so happy! God kept His promise to send someone to save people from sin. Anna, a woman who loved God, was in the temple too. When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked the Lord and told people good news about God. Then Mary and Joseph went back home. Jesus grew up, and He was strong, healthy, and wise.



## **LEARNING** Activities

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Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

### **1 SING A SONG**

Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”:

“God loved the world and gave His Son.  
God loved the world and gave His Son.  
To all who would believe in Him.  
To all who would believe in Him.  
God loved the world and gave His Son.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that God gave His Son, Jesus, because He loved the world. Who did God give to us? Yes, God sent His Son, Jesus! ”

### **2 THANK GOD FOR JESUS**

Sit the babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Show the Bible Story Poster as you review the gospel gems. Say a prayer thanking God for giving us His Son, Jesus.

**SAY** “ Simeon and Anna thanked God for keeping His promise and sending Jesus. We can thank God for Jesus too. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins. Who should we thank God for? That’s right. We can thank God for Jesus. ”

### **3 BUILD A STRONG TOWER**

Build a tower with soft foam blocks or paper cups. Encourage the babies to knock the tower down. Model building and knocking down the tower. Repeat as interest allows. Remind the babies that the tower is strong. Point out how strong the baby is for being able to knock down the tower. Monitor safety, ensuring the towers fall away from the babies.

**SAY** “ God sent His Son, Jesus, as our Savior. He grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise. Who grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise? Yes! Jesus grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 DECORATE A HEART

Draw a heart shape on blank paper (one per toddler). Write God loved the world and gave His only Son. (If desired, tape or glue the Key Passage Phrase Card to each paper instead of writing the phrase.) Provide crayons and encourage the toddlers to color the hearts. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers decorate.

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase says that God loved the world and gave His only Son. Who is God’s Son? Jesus! Jesus grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise. ”

### 3 TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

Review the Bible story. Choose one toddler and whisper, “Jesus loves me” in his ear. Then invite him to tell a friend what you said. Invite the next toddler to create her own message about Jesus to share with another friend. Continue as time and interest permit, allowing toddlers to share any good news they remember from the Bible story with others.

**SAY** “ Simeon and Anna thanked God for keeping His promise to send Jesus. After they saw Jesus, they told people the good news about Him. Can we tell other people good news? Yes. We can tell other people about Jesus. ”

### 4 WORSHIP GOD

Offer scarves or ribbons and maracas, bells, or any other instrument. Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Invite the toddlers to worship together. Choose songs that are different tempos to keep the toddlers’ attention. Guide toddlers to pass the instruments to another friend, if desired. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “ Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple where people went to pray and worship God. Simeon and Anna prayed and thanked God for Jesus. Can we worship God? Yes, we can! ”

### 5 TRAVEL TO THE TEMPLE

Provide toy vehicles for the toddlers to explore. Challenge the toddlers to travel around the room and “drive” the toy vehicles. Offer painter’s or masking tape and assist the toddlers in designing a “road” to the “temple.” Display the Bible Story Picture. Remind toddlers that Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple to pray and worship God.

**SAY** “ Do you like to take trips? Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus on a trip to the temple so they could pray and worship God. They brought Jesus to present Him to God. Where did Mary and Joseph take Baby Jesus? Yes, to the temple to pray and worship God. ”

# JESUS WAS DEDICATED

## LUKE 2

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God loved the world and gave his only Son to all who believe in him. John 3:16

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CRAWL, JUMP, AND WALK

Invite the toddlers to crawl from one place to another, pretending to travel to the temple. Assign an area in the room as the “temple,” posting the Bible Story Poster, if desired. Continue by jumping, tiptoeing, or walking to the “temple.” Read the story as the toddlers travel.

**SAY** “ Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple to present Jesus to God. Jesus grew up, and He was strong, healthy, and wise. Where did Mary and Joseph travel? Yes! They traveled to the temple. ”

### 2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”:

“God loved the world and gave His Son.  
 God loved the world and gave His Son.  
 To all who would believe in Him.  
 To all who would believe in Him.  
 God loved the world and gave His Son.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that God loved the world and gave His Son, Jesus. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Him. Who gave His Son? God gave His Son, Jesus. ”

### 3 KNOCK DOWN A STRONG TOWER

Encourage toddlers to find a friend and work together to build a tower. Offer different building materials (cardboard or foam blocks, magnetic tiles, and so forth). Remind the toddlers that Jesus grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise. Demonstrate for the toddlers how to build strong towers. Display the Bible Story Poster and review the story as toddlers build.

**SAY** “ Jesus grew up, and He was strong, healthy, and wise. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Him. Who can you tell about Jesus? ”

### 4 FORM THE TEMPLE

Attach adhesive hook-and-loop pieces to the ends of craft sticks. Secure a piece of felt or flannel fabric to a wall. Allow toddlers to form a temple with the sticks as you tell the story.

**SAY** “ After Jesus was born, where did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to present Him to God? Yes, they went to the temple where people pray and worship God. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.