

UNIT 19 | SESSION 2

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

LUKE 2



KEY PASSAGE: John 3:16

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth to save us.

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.

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



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

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.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Scrambled Tiles" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- new toilet plungers or spoons, 2
- table tennis balls
- buckets, 4



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- "Glamorous Glasses" printable
- art supplies

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "Jesus Was Dedicated" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- fake glasses or sunglasses, 1 per kid (optional)

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 19, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Annie Armstrong Portrait" printable

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- new flyswatter
- "Eternal Life (John 3:16)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is the longest amount of time you have waited on something? Was it worth the wait?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Scrambled Tiles” activity page.

SAY “Everyone did a great job using the color key to discover the hidden word! In today’s story, we’ll learn about Simeon and Anna. **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS AS THE MESSIAH** God had promised through the prophets.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: GUESS WHO?



Select a volunteer to start the game by being the guesser. Have the guesser turn around and close his eyes. From the remaining kids, silently point to someone to be It. Have the guesser turn around and open his eyes. Encourage him to ask yes or no questions, without using names, to try and discover who is It—for example, “Does It have blonde hair?” or “Is It wearing tennis shoes?” For more of a challenge, consider only allowing the guesser three questions. Once the guesser discovers who’s It, she may be the next guesser. Play as time allows, giving each kid a turn.

SAY “When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they didn’t have to guess who He was! They recognized that God had fulfilled His promise to send a Savior. Today, we will see that **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS AS THE MESSIAH.**”

OPTION 2: PATIENCE PASS

Divide the kids into two teams. Line the teams up shoulder to shoulder and place an empty bucket at the end of each line, and a bucket 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 an unused plunger and instruct them to hold it upside down. They will put a table tennis ball in the plunger and pass it down the line. The last kid will drop the ball into the empty bucket. The team will then pass the plunger back down the line. They will repeat this process until time is up. The team to successfully transport the most table tennis balls wins. (Note: Spoons can be used instead of plungers to transport the table tennis balls.)

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.**”

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

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

SAY “ Hi! I’m so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. Today we will be jumping back into the book of Luke. Can anyone remind me in which Testament the book of Luke is found? [Allow responses.] Let’s get out our Bibles and turn together to the New Testament! [Use this time to distribute Bibles to any kid who needs one.] Last week we read about the birth of Jesus, God’s promised Messiah! Today, we will read about how Jesus was worshiped. Let’s pray together before we open God’s Word. ‘God, as we read Your Word together, help us to understand who Jesus is and how we should respond to Him. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Last week we started learning a new big picture question together! Remember that our big picture question teaches us a truth about God. Who can remind me what our big picture question is? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **Who is Jesus?** Today’s story will remind us that **Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth to save us.** Remember what the angels said to the shepherds! The good news of Jesus is for everyone. Today, we will learn that because Jesus is the promised Messiah, He deserves our worship. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Ezra had faithfully taught the people God’s Word, but perfect obedience was impossible. Through the prophet Malachi, God promised His people that He would bring them a Savior. This Savior would perfectly follow God’s law and save the people from their sins. About 400 years later, God reminded His people that He had not forgotten His promise. In the city of Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, and laid Him in a manger. Today, we will see that Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as God’s promised Messiah. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

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

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

“ The law of the Lord required every firstborn male to be dedicated to the Lord. So, **when Jesus was a baby, 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

STORYTELLING TIPS

Wear Glasses: Provide each kid with a pair of fake glasses or sunglasses to wear while you read the story. Point out how glasses help people see things in front of them more clearly. Explain that while Simeon and Anna didn’t wear glasses, they saw Jesus in person and recognized Him clearly as God’s Son.

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.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ 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. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ In His grace and mercy, Jesus has provided the way for us to be forgiven of our sin and to have a right relationship with God when we repent and believe in Him. To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, please talk with your parents or at leader at church. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

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

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

**5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)**

Show the “Annie Armstrong Portrait” printable.

SAY “ Annie Armstrong was baptized at the age of 19. Miss Annie remained an active member of Eutaw Place Church in Baltimore, Maryland, for nearly 70 years, until her death in 1938. For 50 of those years, she taught children up to 12 years of age. But she also had an interest in ministering to mothers, immigrants, the underprivileged, the sick, African Americans, Native Americans, and later in her life, her Jewish neighbors.

In 1880, Annie served as the first president of the Woman’s Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland. The society formed a school for Native Americans and ministered to Chinese immigrants. The organization also supported work in Cuba and New Orleans. In 1888, Miss Annie worked with and helped lead the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU). She refused to be paid for the work she did there to tell people the good news about Jesus. ”

Close in prayer, thanking God for the work of Annie Armstrong.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 3:16 together.

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. ”

Copy the words of the key passage onto small pieces of paper. Scatter the words across the floor, face up so the kids can see the words. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle around the words. Give the first kid the new flyswatter and encourage her to swat the first word of the key passage. Have her pass the flyswatter to the kid on her left, and encourage him to swat the next word. Continue until the kids have swatted the entire key passage.

Lead kids to sing “Eternal Life (John 3:16).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, You are worthy of our praise and worship. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son to save us from our sin. Help us share the good news of Jesus with others. Amen. ”





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 2. Explain that the book of Luke is one of the four Gospels. Luke was a doctor, and his Gospel gives an account of Jesus' life based on eyewitness testimonies.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem [H5] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 2:25-38, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ Why do you think we should worship Jesus? [Allow responses.] Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus because they understood Him to be the promised Messiah who would save people from their sins. When we trust in Jesus as God’s Son, our response should be to worship Him as Lord over our lives. Consider how you can worship Jesus every day. Worship isn’t just singing! We worship Jesus when we acknowledge with our hearts, minds, and words who He is and what He has done for us. Whether through prayer, reading our Bibles, or singing, we can praise God today and everyday for His salvation. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

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

Read Leviticus 12:8 with the kids. Explain that God’s law required a sin offering to be made whenever the first male born to a family was dedicated in the temple. Remind kids that Jesus came to be the sin offering that would atone for sins once and for all. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

SAY “ Who are the Gentiles that Simeon spoke about? ”

Explain to the kids that Gentiles are all people who are not from the nation of Israel. Share that God has made salvation available not just to the Israelites, but to all of us through His Son, Jesus! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Galatians 3:28.)

SAY “ What did Simeon mean when he said that some people would reject Jesus? ”

Remind kids that though Jesus came for all people, not everyone acknowledged Him as Lord. Scripture tells us that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Those who reject Jesus, reject God the Father. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 2:23.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: CLASSMATE CARICATURES

Pair the kids up in groups of two. Tape a sheet of paper to each kid's back. Give each pair a crayon. Allow them 10 seconds to look at their partner. Once the time is up, have one teammate from each pair begin by drawing a portrait of his or her partner on the paper taped to their partner's back. Give the second kid another 10 seconds to look at his or her partner before drawing his or her portrait. Once all of the kids have completed the portraits of their partners, have everyone remove the paper and look over his or her partner's work!

SAY “ Portraits help us see what a person looks like, but it’s nothing compared to really being with the person in the same room! When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus in the temple, they recognized Him as God’s promised Messiah. Jesus came to save us from sin and is worthy of our worship. ”

OPTION 2: GLAMOROUS GLASSES

Before the activity, set up a table with scissors and art supplies at each seat. Have the kids sit down and provide each of them with a copy of the “Glamorous Glasses” printable. Instruct the kids to cut out the printable and use the art supplies provided to decorate a unique pair of glasses. As the kids decorate their glasses, remind them that Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, God’s promised salvation, with their own eyes. Once finished, show the kids how to tape their glasses so they can wear them as a reminder that God fulfilled His promise!

SAY “ When Simeon saw Jesus, He praised God! Simeon knew he had seen the Messiah, who would save God’s people from sin. As you wear your glasses, remember that Jesus is our Savior, who is worthy of our worship. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

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

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

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.