

UNIT 19 | SESSION 2

# JESUS WAS DEDICATED

LUKE 2



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God kept His promise to send a Savior! We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus.

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

**KEY PASSAGE:** God loved the world and gave his one and only Son to everyone who believes in him. John 3:16

**STORY POINT:** Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus.



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 preschoolers and open the session



## LEARN

### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



## LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



## LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



## BONUS

### 60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tip scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

### WELCOME

#### Hide and find

- Big Picture Question Poster
- toy people figures



### LEARN

#### Explore baby care items

- baby care items

#### Tell the Bible story

- "Jesus Was Dedicated" video (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- baby care items from "Explore baby care items"
- basket

#### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Build a town

- masking tape
- toy vehicles

#### Make a play dough temple

- play dough
- play dough tools



### LIVE

#### Create a scroll

- assorted stickers

#### Missions activity

- "Annie Armstrong Portrait" printable
- quart-size ziplock bag
- assortment of food or toiletry items such as granola bars, fruit cups, snack crackers, wet wipes, and hand sanitizer

#### Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Circle What Is Different" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



### BONUS

#### List God's promises

- bulletin paper and marker
- dry erase board and dry erase marker

#### Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

#### Build with blocks

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large interlocking blocks

#### Taste baby food items

- bananas
- large bowl
- masher or forks
- plastic spoons
- applesauce or other baby food items



## WELCOME Preschoolers

---

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers opportunities to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, the story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### HIDE AND FIND

Hide several people figures around the room in easy-to-find locations. Consider hiding two female figures and two male figures to represent Mary, Anna, Joseph, and Simeon. Hide the Big Picture Question Poster by one of the people figures. Allow kids to find all the figures, instructing them to work together to collect them all and carry them with them to the figure by the hidden Big Picture Question. Once at the hidden poster, read the big picture question and answer to the children.

**SAY** “ Welcome to church today. I’m so glad you’re here. I’m so proud of you for finding all the people figures that appear in our Bible story today. Our big picture question asks, **Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.** Today we will learn about Simeon and Anna. **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS.** They loved God, and they recognized Jesus as God’s promised Savior and as His one and only Son. ”

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





## LEARN the Bible Story

---

### 1 EXPLORE BABY CARE ITEMS

Set out baby care items on a low table. Allow kids to walk by and look at the items. Talk to the kids about what they see as they come to group time and sit down.

**SAY** “ I brought a few baby care items today for us to look at. Can you tell me what they are used for? [Allow responses.] In our Bible story today, we will learn about the first time Baby Jesus went to the temple with His family. Listen to hear about His day at the temple. ”

### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

#### JESUS WAS DEDICATED

**SAY** “ After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary took Him to the temple where people went to pray and worship God. God had given rules to His people. One rule was, “When the first son is born, his parents must present him to God.” Joseph and Mary obeyed God.

That day, God told a man named Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon loved God and knew that God was going to send someone special to save people from sin. God even told Simeon, “Before you die, you will see the One who will rescue people from sin.”

Simeon saw Jesus at the temple, and he picked up Jesus in his arms. Simeon was so happy! He said, “God, You kept Your promise!”

A woman named Anna was also in the temple. When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked the Lord. Then she told other people good news about God.

After Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to God at the temple, they went back home. Jesus grew up, and He was strong, healthy, and wise. ”

Christ Connection: God kept His promise to send a Savior! We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus.



### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Show kids a basket and give each child at least one baby care item. While looking at the Bible Story Picture Poster, ask questions about the Bible story. Invite kids to add the items to the basket for each question and answer. Sample questions may include “What did people do at the temple?” (pray and worship God), “Who took Jesus to the temple?” (Mary and Joseph), “Who was the man who picked Jesus up into his arms?” (Simeon), “Who was Anna?” (a woman in the temple). Feel free to add other questions depending on the number of kids in the group.

**SAY** “At the beginning of our group time, we looked at and named some baby items. In our story, Jesus was still a baby when His parents took Him to the temple for the first time. They went to dedicate Jesus to God. While they were there, Simeon and Anna came to see Jesus. They knew He was God’s Son and the Savior God had promised to send many years before He was born. **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS.** We can worship Jesus and tell others about Him, too. God kept His promise to send a Savior. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus.”

### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”:

God loved the world and gave His one  
And only Son to everyone,  
God loved the world and gave His Son  
Jesus is His name.

### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 3:16. Invite a kid to open your Bible to the key passage. Learn the key passage phrase together while standing up and sitting down on alternating words.

**SAY** “In our Bible story, Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple to dedicate Him to God. While they were there, Simeon and Anna saw Jesus and knew exactly who He was. **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS.** Our key passage phrase remind us that God loves the world so much, He sent Jesus, His one and only Son. Jesus is God’s promised Savior. We can worship Jesus, too!”

### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as God’s promised Savior.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 MAKE A MEGAPHONE

Give each child a sheet of paper and crayons or markers. Allow them to decorate the paper. Help them roll up the paper to create a tube that is slightly wider at one end and tape it closed. Show the kids how to talk through the smaller end and listen to how the sound is made louder by the wider opening.

**SAY** 🗨️ Did you hear that? The megaphone makes our voices louder. We can tell other people about Jesus like Simeon and Anna did. The more people we tell, the more people may believe that Jesus is the Savior sent from God to save people from their sins. When we tell people about Jesus, it helps the good news about Jesus spread to more and more people. The people we tell go on to tell other people about Jesus. More people can then worship Jesus. **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS.** We can worship Jesus, too. 🗨️

### 2 BUILD A TOWN

Tear off strips of masking tape and offer them to children. Suggest boys and girls attach tape strips to the floor to construct a series of roads and intersections. Invite kids to use blocks to construct buildings to add to their town. Recommend boys and girls include a church building in their town.

**SAY** 🗨️ Is your home close to our church building or far away? [Allow responses.] In today's Bible story, God told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon trusted God. He believed God's promise that he would see the one God sent to rescue people from sin. When Simeon saw Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus, he was so happy! A woman named Anna had been waiting to see Jesus too. They held the baby in their arms, and **SIMEON AND ANNA WORSHIPED JESUS.** We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus too. 🗨️

### 3 MAKE A PLAY DOUGH TEMPLE

Distribute play dough and play dough tools to each child. Place the Bible Story Picture Poster nearby. Talk with kids about what the temple may have looked like. Encourage them to build a temple out of play dough.

**SAY** 🗨️ When Simeon went to the temple and saw Jesus and held Him in his arms, Simeon was so happy. Anna was happy, too, when she saw Jesus at the temple. Anna told other people good news about God. Both Simeon and Anna knew God kept His promise to send a Savior! We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus. 🗨️

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

#### 1 CREATE A SCROLL

Write the key passage phrase on white paper, one per child. Distribute prepared papers, markers, crayons, and assorted stickers to each child. Allow kids to decorate the page. Demonstrate how to roll the paper up to create a scroll. Give each kid a piece of yarn. Help them tie their scrolls closed.

**SAY** “ Books of the Bible used to be written on scrolls. People would read these scrolls at the temple. Let’s read our key passage phrase together as we roll up our scrolls, ‘God loved the world and gave his one and only Son to everyone who believes in him. John 3:16.’ ”

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print and display a copy of the “Annie Armstrong Portrait” printable. Provide food and toiletry items for kids to pack blessing bags that can be given to an agency or distributed through your church’s food bank. Form an assembly line and allow children to help fill the blessing bags to be distributed to people in need. Consider sending children home with a list of items to build blessing bags together at home.

**SAY** “ We worked together to fill bags with food. These bags will be given to people who need something to eat. We are helping feed people; that means we are helping to meet their needs. Annie Armstrong was a brave woman who asked Christians to pray and help people. She wanted to help people with their needs and help them learn about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.] ”

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

**SAY** “ God kept His promise to send a Savior! We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



## **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

---

### **1 LIST GOD'S PROMISES**

Lead kids to name promises from God, such as that He will be with us, He will provide for our needs, or that Jesus will return again. These promises can be from any Bible stories the kids remember. Record responses on large bulletin paper or a dry erase board. Try to guide their ideas so that the promise to send a Savior is the last promise on the list. Remind them throughout the activity that all of God's promises are true and good. Conclude with the promise God made to send a Savior to save people from their sins.

### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to Luke 2. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

#### **JESUS WAS DEDICATED**

- After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple 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 had kept His promise to send someone to save people from sin.
- Anna saw Jesus and thanked the Lord. She told other people good news about God.
- Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to God, and they went back home. Jesus grew up and was strong, healthy, and wise.

### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "The Wheels on the Bus":

God loved the world and gave His one  
And only Son to everyone,  
God loved the world and gave His Son  
Jesus is His name.

### **4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 3:16. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Learn the key passage phrase. Simeon and Anna were old when they saw Baby Jesus for the first time. They knew He was God's promised Savior. Say the key passage phrase in an "old" voice and then again in a "young" voice.

### **5 PRAY**

Pray, thanking God for Jesus, for Anna and Simeon who had been waiting for Jesus a long time, and for opportunities to worship God everywhere we go.



## TEACHING HOUR

# BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

### 6 PLAY A “TELEPHONE” GAME



Guide children to sit in a circle. Explain that you will whisper into the first child’s ear a sentence and then each child will whisper in the ear of the person next to them all the way around the circle. When the sentence gets to the last person, she is to tell the group what she heard.

**SAY** “ That was fun passing along a message! It reminds me that God passed along promises to His people—promises that He would send a Savior. God really does keep His promises. God kept His promise to send a Savior! We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus. ”

### 7 BUILD WITH BLOCKS

Provide children with interlocking blocks. Encourage them to build the temple. Retell the Bible story while children build. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster to support the story retelling.

**SAY** “ Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present Him to God. Anna and Simeon were already at the temple. **ANNA AND SIMEON WORSHIPPED JESUS.** They knew He was the promised Savior. Jesus was just a baby, but they knew why God had sent Him. Jesus grew up and He was strong, healthy, and wise. God kept His promise to send a Savior. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins, and we can tell others the good news about Jesus. ”

### 8 TASTE BABY FOOD



Post an Allergy Alert to notify parents that their children will be tasting baby food. Sanitize children’s hands and ask them to help you peel the bananas and place them in the bowl. Invite kids to use forks to mash bananas. Spoon into cups and encourage preschoolers to taste mashed baby food. Offer applesauce and other baby food flavors as desired.

**SAY** “ Our teeth help us chew our food. Babies usually don’t have teeth when they are born, so they drink a special formula from a bottle or milk from their mothers. When babies get older, they eat mashed food they don’t have to chew. God sent Jesus, His Son, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He rose from the dead to save us. **Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.** He is the Savior that Simeon and Anna waited for. We can trust Jesus and tell others about Him. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.