

UNIT 19 | SESSION 4

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

LUKE 2



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus obeyed His parents and followed God’s plan to save people from sin.

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

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- When Jesus was 12 years old, He and His family went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.
- After the celebration, Mary and Joseph left to return home, but Jesus was not with them.
- Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem and found Jesus in the temple listening to the teachers.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: When Jesus was 12 years old, He went to Jerusalem with His family and a large group of people to celebrate Passover. When it was time to go home, Mary and Joseph left, but Jesus was not with them. They looked, but they could not find Him. Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus at the temple, listening to the teachers. Mary said, “We have been looking everywhere for you!” Jesus asked, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” Then Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph. Jesus always obeyed them. Jesus grew taller and wiser, and God was happy with Him.



LEARNING Activities

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 “ Who loved the world? Yes! God loved the world. God loved the world so much that He gave His Son to save us from our sin. ”

2 LOOK FOR A FRIEND

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Cover your face and play peekaboo with the babies. Encourage the babies to mimic your movements. Demonstrate excitement as you uncover your face. Celebrate as the babies discover you. Review the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ When you looked for me, did you find me? Yes! When Mary and Joseph left to go home, Jesus was not with them. Did Mary and Joseph look for Jesus? Yes! Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple listening to the teachers. ”

3 POINT TO YOUR FACE

Arrange babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps in a circle. Encourage the babies to point out parts of their faces. Choose eyes, nose, or mouth. Invite the babies to point out their ears. Cheer for the babies as they identify each body part.

SAY “ Did you find your ears? Yes! Ears are used for listening. Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple listening to the teachers. Can you listen to your teachers too? Yes, you can. ”

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 LOOK AND FIND

Invite the toddlers to find safe places to hide around the room. Choose one or two toddlers to find the friends who are hiding. Alternatively, hide the Bible Story Poster around the room for toddlers to find, if desired. Allow toddlers to use magnifying glasses to find their missing friends or the poster, if desired. Review the Bible story as the toddlers participate.

SAY “ Mary and Joseph looked everywhere for Jesus! Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? That’s right! Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple listening to the teachers. ”

3 FOLLOW THE RULES

Encourage the toddlers to listen closely and follow your instructions. Instructions can include jump up and down, turn around, sit on the ground, and so forth. To extend the activity, challenge the toddlers to watch and copy your motions. Continue as time and interest allow. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ Who was Jesus listening to at the temple? Yes, the teachers! Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple listening to the teachers. Jesus obeyed His parents and followed God’s plan to save people from sin. ”

4 TOSS THE GLOBE

Provide an inflatable globe. Encourage the toddlers to roll or toss the globe back and forth to one another. Celebrate as the toddlers gently pass the globe. Remind the toddlers that a globe is a model of the world. Invite the toddlers to cheer, “God loved the world” as they play.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘God loved the world and gave his Son to all who would believe in him.’ Who does God love? That’s right! God loves the world. ”

5 TRAVEL TO CHURCH

Secure toddlers in strollers, along a walking rope, or holding hands as they line up. Remind the toddlers that Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem with Jesus and a large group of people to celebrate Passover. Travel together in the hallways of your church setting. Review the Bible story quietly as you travel. Consult your church’s safety procedures and guidelines before taking any child outside of the room.

SAY “ Where did Mary and Joseph travel? Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem with Jesus to celebrate Passover. Jesus obeyed His parents and followed God’s plan to save people from sin. ”

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

LUKE 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus obeyed His parents and followed God’s plan to save people from sin.

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

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY “LISTEN” TAG

Invite toddlers to walk around the room. Call out a movement, such as jump, hop, crawl, and so forth. Encourage the toddlers to obey and move in the way you call. Instruct the toddlers to continue moving until you say, “Listen.” When you say, “Listen,” toddlers should freeze and touch their ears. Continue calling out different movements. As a challenge, add an extra instruction to the movement you call out (crawl quickly, jump slowly, and so forth).

SAY “ Jesus listened to the teachers. Jesus obeyed His parents. Jesus followed God’s plan to save people from sin. Can we listen like Jesus? Yes! ”

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 “ Who did God give to the world because He loved us? Yes! God gave His Son, Jesus. ”

3 LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

Invite the toddlers to sit as you open a Bible to Luke 2 and tell the Bible story. Guide the toddlers to listen as you change the inflection of your voice during the story. Encourage the toddlers to stand up or sit down each time you change the volume of your voice.

SAY “ Who was Jesus listening to in the temple? Jesus was listening to the teachers. We can listen to our teachers too! ”

4 DESIGN A TEMPLE

Gather washable paint and foam blocks. Offer painting smocks and blank papers to each toddler. Encourage the toddlers to build a house for God by pressing the blocks into the paint and designing a temple. Write Jesus was in God’s house on each paper. Remind the toddlers that Jesus said the temple was His Father’s house. Display the Bible Story Poster.

SAY “ Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? Yes, in the temple! Jesus said the temple was His Father’s house. Jesus obeyed His parents and followed God’s plan to save people from sin. ”

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.