

Use Week of:

Unit 19 • Session 4

Jesus Was Dedicated

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2

STORY POINT:

Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

(15–20 MINUTES)

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TEACH THE STORY

(10–15 MINUTES)

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EXPERIENCE THE STORY

(20–25 MINUTES)

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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

Jesus came to earth as a baby. He was born in Bethlehem. Jesus' parents on earth were Mary and Joseph. They took care of Jesus.

One day, when Jesus was still a baby, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple. The temple was the place where people went to pray and worship God. Many years before, God had given special rules to all the people of Israel. One rule was, "When a woman's

first son is born, his parents must present him to God." Another rule was that the child's parents should give an offering to God. Mary and Joseph obeyed God and brought two birds as an offering.

A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem, and he loved God. He knew that God had promised to send someone special to save people from sin.

God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah who would rescue people from their sins. Simeon trusted God.

That day, God told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus there, and he picked Jesus up in his arms. Simeon was so happy!

Simeon knew that Jesus was special. Simeon praised God. He prayed, "God, I am ready to die. You kept Your promise, and I have seen the One who will save people from sin."



Mary and Joseph heard Simeon say those important words. Jesus was going to save people from sin! **Simeon talked to Mary and Joseph. He said being Jesus' mother would be very good, but it would be very hard.** Some people would love Jesus, but other people would not like Him at all. **Some things would happen that would make Mary very sad.**

Another woman was in the temple, a prophetess named Anna. Anna was very old. Anna did not have a family, so she stayed at the temple all the time and worshiped God.

Anna walked toward Simeon, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. **When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked God.** People had been waiting a long time for God to send the special One who would save people from sin. **Anna told other people the good news: Jesus the Savior is here!**

Mary and Joseph did everything they were supposed to do at the temple. Then they went back home. Jesus grew up, and He was strong and healthy and wise. God was happy with Jesus.

Christ Connection: God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Savior. Jesus came to save people from sin. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins; and like Simeon and Anna, we get to tell others the good news.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Meet a real baby:

Arrange for a mom and dad in your church to bring their baby to class. Encourage them to sit in front of the class, holding their baby as you tell the Bible story.

• Hold a baby doll:

Allow a boy and girl to hold a baby doll while you tell the Bible story. When Simeon and Anna are introduced, instruct the children to carefully pass the doll to another child.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Welcome time

- “He Came Into the World” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “What Does Not Belong?” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Lead children to circle what does not belong in the picture.
SAY • Good job circling what does not belong. What about the cage with birds that Joseph is holding? Does that belong? [*Allow answers.*] The birds do belong! God had given His people a special rule that said when a woman’s first son is born, he must be presented to God at the temple with an offering. Mary and Joseph obeyed God and brought two birds as an offering. Listen to what happened when Baby Jesus was at the temple in today’s Bible story.

LOW PREP

- construction paper, 4 sheets in different colors
- marker
- tape
- scissors (adult use) (optional)

Play “Which Church?”

Before the session, gather four sheets of construction paper in four different colors. Draw or cut out a basic church outline on each paper. Tape each church to a wall in different locations in the classroom. Tell preschoolers when

you close your eyes, they must move to one of the churches. Before opening your eyes, call out a color. Open your eyes to see which children chose to stand by the selected church.

SAY • Who brought you to church today? Jesus' earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, obeyed God by taking Jesus to the temple. While they were there, they met two people who had been waiting a long time to meet the Messiah. Listen to the Bible story to learn who these people were.

Tip: Make sure another adult leader watches children while your eyes are closed.

Make a sticky mural

Remove the backing from a large sheet of clear contact plastic. Attach the plastic, sticky side out, to a wall at children's height by taping the corners to the wall. Set out magazines and catalogs. Encourage preschoolers to cut out pictures of people, both young and old. Guide children to attach people to the sticky paper.

- clear contact plastic
- scissors (adult use)
- tape
- blunt-tipped scissors
- magazines or catalogs

SAY • Sometimes when people get old, their hair turns gray or it might begin to fall out. In today's Bible story, a man named Simeon was old. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah, the One who would rescue people from their sins. A woman named Anna had also been waiting a long time to see the Messiah. Listen to the Bible story to hear about when Simeon and Anna saw Baby Jesus.

Tip: Cut out the people pictures before the session for younger preschoolers.

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend they are looking for someone as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Luke 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book there is because the Bible is God’s Word. God’s Word is true. Today’s Bible story is from the Book of Luke. Luke is one of the Gospels. The Gospels tell about Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “Jesus Was Dedicated” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph obeyed God’s laws and took Him to the temple. Simeon was at the temple that day. He praised God when he met Baby Jesus because he knew Jesus was the Savior God promised. When Anna saw Mary’s baby, she praised God too. **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus** because they knew He was the Savior.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at John 1:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Mention that *Word* begins with the letter *W*. Guide boys and girls to pretend to write a large *W* with their index fingers in the air. Say the verse a few times, writing a *W* each time *Word* is spoken.

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “In the Beginning (John 1:1)” song
- “He Came Into the World” song

SAY • When the verse says *Word*, it means Jesus. The Word, Jesus, was God. They are the same! Simeon and Anna recognized that Jesus was not an ordinary baby. They knew He was the Savior who had come to save people from sin.

Sing the key passage song, “In the Beginning,” and the theme song, “He Came Into the World.”

Learn the big picture question

SAY • **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus** because they knew He was not an ordinary baby. Jesus was God, the Savior. *Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • We have been learning about two missionaries are named Brandi and Amanda. They want people in Brazil to know Jesus and to worship Him, like **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus**.

Watch what happened when a young woman, also named Amanda, realized that she needed Jesus.

Play the “Relentless Love (Part 2)” video. Pray for Amanda and other new believers in Brazil.

- “Relentless Love (Part 2)” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- large sheet of paper or poster board
- markers
- index cards

Match words

Write *Jesus, Simeon, Anna, Bible, God, human, temple* on a large sheet of paper in different colors. Print the same words in corresponding marker colors on index cards. Lay the large sheet of paper on the floor. Gather preschoolers, read a word on an index card, and identify the color the word is printed in. Guide a child to find the like-colored word on the large paper and lay the card on its matching word. Recall portions of the Bible story as words are matched.

SAY • You matched the words *Jesus, God, and human*. **Is Jesus God or a human?** Our key passage tells that Jesus and God are the same, but Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up, and He had a family. **Jesus is both fully God and fully human.** Simeon and Anna understood this. They knew that Jesus was the One that God promised to save people from sin.

Wait for it

- clock with a second hand

Gather preschoolers together. Suggest a simple action, such as run in place, pat your head, or shake a friend's hand. Instruct boys and girls to wait to begin moving until a signal is given. Watch a clock's second hand as children anticipate beginning to move. Build excitement and finally give the signal for the boys and girls to move. Continue

playing and emphasize the waiting, pre-movement time.

SAY • Simeon and Anna waited a long time to meet Jesus. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Savior who would rescue people from sin. How happy he was when he met Baby Jesus! When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked God and told people that Jesus the Savior had been born. **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus** and told others the good news.

Take a baby to church

Invite preschoolers to play out taking a baby to church. Encourage a child to dress a doll and pack a diaper bag with baby care items. Arrange chairs to form a car and suggest preschoolers pretend to drive to church. Guide them to play out strapping the doll into a stroller or carrier and walking a baby to class.

- baby doll
- baby doll clothes
- diaper bags or totes
- baby care items
- chairs

SAY • Mary and Joseph did everything they were supposed to do when they took Baby Jesus to the temple. They obeyed God. Jesus grew up, and God was happy with Him. ***Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*** Jesus grew up to be strong, healthy, and wise. Jesus was both God and human.

Make worship streamers

Cut light-colored fabric into 4-inch wide strips about 3 feet long. Tape one end of the fabric to a craft stick to serve as a handle. Provide markers and allow preschoolers to decorate a streamer. Write the story point on each child's streamer. Play worship music and encourage boys and girls to wave their streamer, sing, and worship Jesus.

- scissors (adult use)
- light-colored fabric
- tape
- craft sticks
- markers
- "In the Beginning (John 1:1)" song (optional)
- "He Came Into the World" song (optional)

SAY • **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus** when they saw

Him. Anna thanked God, and Simeon was happy. Simeon talked to Mary and told her about what it would be like for Jesus as He grew. Simeon and Anna knew Jesus was the One who would save people from sin. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins; and like Simeon and Anna, we get to tell others the good news.



Serve your church

•supplies will vary

Involve preschoolers in a simple service project in the church. Ideas include sorting cans in the food pantry, cleaning toys in the nursery, picking up trash around your church, testing markers in a bin and throwing out the ones that are dried, testing play dough and throwing out dried up dough, or sorting crayons by color and putting them into bags. Consider asking a church staff member to suggested a simple task for preschoolers to complete.

SAY • Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus when they met Him in the temple. The Bible says that Anna served God in the temple day and night. We can serve our church, too. When we help at church, we join God in what He is doing here and around the world. Like Simeon and Anna, we are part of telling others the good news about Jesus.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve raisins or other dried fruit for snack. Mention that it takes a long time for grapes to dry out and become raisins. Simeon and Anna waited a long time to see Jesus, the Savior. When they saw Him, **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Where did Jesus' earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, take Him to obey God's rules? (*the temple*)
2. What promise did God make to Simeon? (*Simeon would not die until saw the Messiah, Jesus.*)
3. What did Simeon say it would be like for Mary to be Jesus' mother? (*very good, but very hard*)
4. Anna did what when she saw Jesus? (*thanked God*)
5. What did Anna tell other people? (*She told everyone the good news that Jesus the Savior had come.*)
6. ***Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- raisins or other dried fruit (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "In the Beginning (John 1:1)" song
- "He Came Into the World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers