



UNIT 19 | SESSION 4 | MARCH 21-22, 2020

2nd-3rd Lesson

Jesus Was Dedicated

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point: Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

Key Passage: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” John 1:1-2

Christ Connection: We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

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.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO/OUTRO MUSIC)

JESUS IS ...

(No Supplies Needed)

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Ask each kid to say a word that describes Jesus. Tell the kids not to say the same word as someone else. Be ready to help kids who get stuck or who had a word in mind when someone else said it first.

SAY • Those were some great things to say about Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son, and He is perfect and wonderful. He is our Savior and King. Today we will hear a story about a time Mary and Joseph heard some incredible things about their baby boy from two people who had just recently met Him!

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(CG + SFX: GAME INTRO SLIDE + MUSIC, VIDEO: 1 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)

CUPCAKE WARS

(Birthday Swag, 2 Plates, 2 Plain Cupcakes, 4 Containers of Edible Decorations, 2 Plastic Knives, Paper Towels, Table)

SAY • Hello Hello! It’s game time again. For THIS game I need 2 Small Group Leaders – one male and one female. *Choose 2 SGL’s and have them come up to the stage and stand behind a long table. We would highly recommend that you choose them ahead of time, making sure*

they don't have food allergies etc... OK, here we have [SGL's name] and [SGL's name] and they don't know it yet but today we're celebrating their birthdays! Yep! Happy Birthday you 2! *Put the birthday swag on each one.* Let's sing Happy Birthday to them. *Guide the group in singing Happy Birthday to the 2 SGL's. Make it as wild and crazy as you want!*

Great job! Now that the singing is done the only thing left to do is eat some cake! Here you go! *Reveal 2 plain cupcakes in front of each SGL.* These are very boring looking cupcakes. You know what, I'm going to have you 2 select one kid from your small group to come up on stage and decorate your cupcake. *Reveal bowls of edible cupcake decorations while each SGL chooses 1 kid each.* Kids, you will have 1 minute to decorate your cupcake as amazing and crazy as you want! Ready? GO!

Play Countdown Video.

These cupcakes look amazing! OK, Small Group Leaders - time to eat up! Whoever eats their entire cupcake first wins! Ready? GO!

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS LITTLE LIGHT, VIDEO: BURN)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: AWKWARD FAMILY PHOTOS #4 - SPECIAL EVENTS)

(No Supplies Needed)

SAY • Hey everyone! I just want to say Happy Birthday to our 2 special Small Group Leaders again! If you've been here the past few weeks you know that we have been talking about families and looking at some pretty funny photos that families have taken. Well, we're doing that again today but *this* time our Bible story is about when Jesus was dedicated. Which was a special event for Him and His family. So this week we're going to be looking at some awesome/awkward photos taken during some special events....like birthdays, weddings and graduations. Check it out!

Show Awkward Family Photos - Special Events Edition. Respond accordingly to each one.

Those are hilarious! You know, that makes me think of this Bible story today where two people experienced something special that was definitely worth the wait. Let me tell you about it.

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • Jesus had an earthly family, just as we do. Jesus' family line proved He is the Messiah. God kept His promises to Adam, Abraham, David, and more by sending Jesus. Then we learned that God sent a messenger to go before Jesus just as He promised He would. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. Last week, we finally got to the moment God's people had

been waiting for: Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior. This week, we'll learn about the time Jesus was dedicated in the temple.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JESUS WAS DEDICATED, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)
(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Jesus Was Dedicated."

SAY • One thing I want to point out is that Mary and Joseph obeyed the laws God had given His people about how to present a baby at the temple. Jesus' parents knew Jesus was God's Son and were committed to raising Him the way God said to raise children. Jesus' whole life perfectly fulfilled God's laws, even when He was just a baby!

It's also interesting to see that Simeon found Jesus in the temple because God's Spirit led him there. God told Simeon that he would live to see the day the Messiah arrived, and God is always faithful. Simeon praised God and declared the truth about Jesus: He would save people from sin. The nation of Israel had been waiting for years and years to see the Messiah, but not everyone lived to meet Him. What a special feeling that must have been for Simeon.

After Anna met Jesus, she began to tell those around her about Jesus. She understood God's faithfulness too. The people had been waiting for salvation, and the One who would provide it had finally arrived. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • Simeon and Anna did not just understand who Jesus is; they told others about Him and what He would do. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a King who would save people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God's Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open the Bible and lead the kids to read John 1:1-2 together.

SAY • John began his book with this key passage. His writing helps us understand Jesus' nature. Jesus has always existed. Even though His life as a human had a starting point, God the Son has no beginning and no end. At the start of creation, Jesus was already there. He was with God the Father and God the Spirit then.

INVITE-A-FRIEND ANNOUNCEMENT

(CG: INVITE-A-FRIEND SLIDE)



SAY • Ok, before you go to your Small Groups, I wanted to let you know that Easter is only 3 weeks away! I want to encourage you to invite a friend of yours to KidCity for Easter. We're going to have a really fun time with games, prizes and learning about the amazing true story of Easter. So be thinking about who you want to invite and ask them!

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point: Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

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Christ Connection: We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key Passage Poster, 1 per group, "Key Passage Phrase" printable, 1 per kid)

Mix up the key passage phrases. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids by reading John 1:1-2 aloud.

Challenge kids to arrange the cards in the correct order. When kids finish, lead them to read the key passage together.

If time allows, mix up the cards and play again. For an added challenge, include word cards that are not part of the key passage and instruct kids to find and remove words that do not belong.

SAY • Does anyone want to say our key passage from memory? [*Invite volunteers to recite John 1:1-2.*] Our key passage reminds us that Jesus—God's Son—has always existed. No one created Him. Before He came to earth, God's Son was in heaven. All along, God planned to send a Messiah to rescue sinners. Jesus is the promised Messiah. When they saw Him, Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

GUESS WHO?

(Large Sheet or Blanket, 1 per group)

Choose two volunteers to be blanket holders. Form two teams with the remaining kids. Give the volunteers a large sheet or blanket and instruct them to hold it between them with one edge touching the ground to form a curtain of sorts. Instruct one team to sit on one side of the blanket and the other team to sit on the other side. Explain that you will choose a kid from each team to stand close to the blanket.

When you say "go," the volunteers will drop the blanket. The first standing player to recognize and shout the name of the other standing player earns a point for her team. Play additional rounds with other kids.

SAY • Great job! You had to be quick to remember a name for the face you saw. Sometimes recognizing even the people you see frequently can be difficult! With the help of the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognized someone he had never seen before.

DISCUSSION

(Bibles)

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 2. Explain that when Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus, they took Him to the temple in Jerusalem. Read aloud Luke 2:30-32.

SAY • The Holy Spirit had led Simeon to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus and praised God because he recognized that God was going to use Jesus in His plan to bring salvation to the world. Anna also thanked God for the baby Jesus. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why did Mary and Joseph dedicate Jesus? Why do some parents dedicate their children today? *Guide kids to recall that Mary and Joseph wanted to obey God by dedicating their Son. Sometimes parents today dedicate their children as a way to show that children belong to the God. At Hope we have dedications too: we do this as a church to help parents know that sharing Jesus with their kids is important and we as a church will help them along the way. Parents want their kids to have a relationship with God because they love them. (Option: Read 1 Kings 8:60-61.)*

What should our lives look like when we live for God? How should the life of someone who trusts in Jesus as friend and Savior differ from the life of someone who doesn't? *Lead kids to see that a life lived for God should show the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to become more like Jesus. A follower of Jesus knows God is in charge of their life. It's hard to tell sometimes, but people who don't trust in Jesus don't have the Holy Spirit and are not sorry for disobeying God. (Option: Read Gal. 5:22-23.)*

Why should we trust Jesus to save us? Who can we share that good news with? *Help kids understand that no matter how hard they try to obey; they will always make mistakes. Only Jesus is perfect. Jesus never sinned and because of that He is the only one that can take the punishment for our sin. Jesus makes a way for us to have a relationship with God. We can't earn that relationship. It is a free gift. That is amazing news! Ask kids to discuss people who they can share that good news with.*

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, Pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

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

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 2nd-3rd grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.