

## JESUS WAS DEDICATED | Luke 2

**Bible Story:** Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

**Memory Verse:** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

**Big Picture Question:** Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

**Bottom Line:** We worship Jesus because He is God.

**Christ Connection:** *Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a king who would redeem 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.*

### Leader Notes:

#### CONTEXT

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.

## TEACHING FOCUS (Jesus' Dedication)

As we teach kids about Jesus through the story of His dedication to God, focus on the fact that it was normal for babies to be dedicated to God, but this was a baby dedication like no other. Ordinary babies would be brought into the temple and prayed for. When Jesus was brought in, it was clear that He was no ordinary baby. He was the one that everyone had been waiting for. He was the Messiah, our Savior. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they praised God. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah. We can praise God and worship Jesus as the Messiah. God has provided salvation through His Son to all who believe.

**Christ Connection:** *Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a king who*

*would redeem 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.*

**Bottom Line:** We worship Jesus because He is God.

**Today's Takeaways:**

- Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple as a baby to obey God's law.
- Simeon and Anna waited a long time to meet the Messiah.
- Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.
- **Bottom line:** We worship Jesus because He is God.
- When we worship God, we say thanks for keeping your promises.

## PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

### Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

**What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph obeyed God's words and brought Baby Jesus to the temple to give a gift to God. They brought two birds to give to God. A man named Simeon had been waiting to see the special King whom God had promised to send. God told Simeon that he would see God's special King before he died. When Mary and Joseph brought Baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon held Baby Jesus and praised God. Mary and Joseph were surprised! Then a woman named Anna also praised God and told people in the temple that Jesus was the special King whom God had promised to send. After that, Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus home. Jesus grew up, and God was with Him.

### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

## Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

### 1. Play My Eyes Have Seen

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to stand with you as you say, "My eyes have seen..." and then name a large object in the room at kid's eye level.
- Encourage kids to touch what you are looking at.
- Play as time allows.

- Retell the Bible story.

**What You Say** " God sent Jesus to be our King. Simeon had waited a long time to see God's special King. When Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon said, "my eyes have seen my Savior!" There is no one like Jesus.

## 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "**In the beginning** (draw world in air) **was the Word** (open book), **and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was with God, and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was God. He** (sign Jesus) **was with God**(sign God) **in the beginning**(draw world in air). **John 1:1-2**

**What You Say** "When the verse says Word, it means Jesus. The Word, Jesus was God. They are the same! People knew Jesus was not an ordinary baby. They knew He was the Savior who had come to save people from sin. Help me with the Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. We worship Him because He is God.**

### Pray and Dismiss:

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray: "Father God, thank You for today and every day we get to worship You. Please help us remember to look for you like Simeon and Anna and to respond with praise. In Jesus name, Amen."
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall.