

JESUS WAS DEDICATED | Luke 2

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

Memory Verse: *1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Aces in the Pot /LCR Dice Game

What You Need: 2 dice (per group), 2 tokens per player, a "pot"/bowl

What You Do:

- Each player starts with 2 tokens.
- Decide who goes first.
- Players take turns in a clockwise fashion. A player rolls the dice and loses tokens according to the following rules.
 - If one of the dice show a “1”, he puts one of his tokens in the pot.
 - If he rolls double “1s”, he puts two tokens (or one if that is all he has) in the pot.
 - If he rolls one “6” (the number 6, not a combination that adds to six) he must pass one token to the player on his left.
 - If he rolls a double “6”, he passes two tokens (or one, if that is all he has) to the player on his left.
 - If he rolls neither a “1” nor a “6”, he takes no action and passes the dice.
 - If a player has no tokens, he is out of the game and can still receive tokens! He is unable to roll the dice, and passes his turn until such time as he has gained one or more tokens.
 - Play continues until all tokens are in the pot except for one. The player with the last remaining token rolls the dice three times in a row. If he does not roll a “6” he wins. If he rolls a “6”, he passes the dice to the next player who rolls the dice three times, and so forth. The first player to roll the dice three times without rolling a “6” wins.

What You Say ” ”That was a fun game. I love playing games with you guys. It helps me learn more about you. Like today I learned ... Let’s clean up and get ready to hear about how we can Follow the Leader today.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

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.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- **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's law by dedicating their Son. Sometimes parents today dedicate their children as a way to recognize that children belong to the Lord. If your church hosts dedication services for families, discuss the details: what dedication means and how everyone in the church commits to helping children know, love, and serve God.
- **What are ways people might respond to Jesus?** Discuss the reactions of Simeon and Anna, who were excited and happy and told others about Jesus. Then discuss why some people might not believe the good news, or might feel it is too good (or they are too bad) to accept the gospel as true. Point out that some people might think they know Jesus but never have a real relationship with Him. Consider these questions? (Do you have a faith? On a scale of 1 to 10, how certain are you that you would go to heaven if you died right now?) How can kids use these to help share the gospel with other people?
- **What other promises had God given us?** Remind kids that God has promised salvation to everyone who believes Jesus is their Savior. He has promised to send Jesus back to fix everything sin has broken. He has promised to give us new life, joy, and peace through Jesus. Help kids understand that He has not promised an easy life.

Activity: My eyes have Seen

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to play a guessing game.
- Choose one player to lead.
- The leader should pick something in the room that is visible to everyone.
- He should say, "My eyes have seen..." and then he should give a hint.
- For example, "My eyes have seen something that starts with the letter P." or "My eyes have been something green."
- Kids should try to guess what the leader has spotted.
- When a player guesses correctly, she gets to be the new leader.
- Make sure every kid has a turn to lead.

What You Say "In the Bible lesson today, a man named Simeon was waiting for Jesus. When Jesus family arrived at the temple to dedicate Him, Simeon said, "My eyes have seen your salvation!" Can you see salvation? How? How can we look for Jesus all around us every day and share Him with others?

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Bible Memory Verse Grid Poster laminated or put in page protector, sticky notes, dry erase markers

What You Do:

- Show kids the Memory Verse Grid and have them say the verse with you 3 times.
- Then cover all the words with sticky notes.
- Split the group into 2 teams and give each team a different color dry erase marker.



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- Get teams to take turns in choosing a space and saying which word should be under the post it note.
- If they are correct, they can circle the word in their team color. They can discuss answers in their team but a different person must speak each time.
- The first team with 3 words in a row/across is the winner.

What You Say " Jesus life as a human started when Mary became pregnant, but God the Son existed long before that. In fact, He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist. That what our memory verse teaches. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the start of creation, and He is God the Son."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

"Lord, You are good and Your mercy goes on forever. We praise You alone because of who You are and what You have done. Help us trust You daily. Make your obedience an overflow of our love for You. Thank You for sending Jesus the Messiah to save us. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.** Encourage families to pick up the Family Study Guide online or on the slat wall.