

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. ²He 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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and small group leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Freeze Dance

What You Need: Music, carpet spots/hula hoops

What You Do:

- Spread out carpet spots around the room.
- Assign each kid to their area.
- When the music starts they dance their favorite moves around their spot.
- When the music stops, they freeze until the music starts again.
- Keep going as time allows.

What You Say: "I love to dance with you and worship God. Thank you for showing me some new dance moves. Let's get ready to listen and watch our Bible story together. Help me collect the spots and find our spot to listen to the story."

Worship

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."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kid's hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a book mark at Luke 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You 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.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible 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.

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You 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."**

Practice the Memory Verse:

Open your Bible to John 1:1, Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "Jesus and The Word mean the same thing. Jesus has always been and will always be God and man. He was in the beginning and came to save people from sin."

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leaders.

1. Make worship streamers

What You Need: scissors, light colored fabric or ribbon, tape, craft sticks, markers, story point stickers

What You Do:

- Tape one end of the fabric or ribbon to a craft stick to serve as a handle.
- Provide markers and allows kids to decorate a streamer.
- Give each kid a story point sticker to stick on their stick or streamer.
- Play music and encourage kids to wave their streamer as you sing and worship Jesus.

What You 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.

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



April 19, 2020
3's and 4's

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.
-