

Bible Story: Jesus was Dedicated • Luke 2:22-40

Memory Verse:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” **John 1:1**

Big Picture:

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

FOR PARENTS ONLY: 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.”

Review

“Last Sunday we learned about the birth of Jesus. Not only did Jesus come into the world as the Savior, He came as our King. Some time after Jesus’ birth, wise men came to worship Jesus. They brought Him gifts suitable for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, just as God promised King David.” (See 2 Sam. 7.)

“Jesus came because we needed Him. The purpose of Jesus’ birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is about rejoicing over the greatest gift we could ever receive. God’s own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King.”

How Long?

Tell kids you are going to provide scenarios and you want them to raise their hands to answer how long they would wait in the scenario.

Suggested scenarios:

You are in line for the best roller coaster.

You are waiting for tickets to a cool new movie.

You are waiting for a dance recital to begin.

You are waiting in line for a chance to win a new Nintendo Switch gameboard.

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Today we will learn about two people who knew they were waiting on something spectacular. What do you think they were waiting for?"

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him (Jesus) to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."^[a] ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss^[d] your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." ³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[e] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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.

Ask the following questions and discuss.

- **Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple as a baby?** (*to dedicate Him according to God's law, Luke 2:22-23*)
- **Why did Simeon say "You can let me die now"?** (*Simeon had seen God fulfill His promise to send the Messiah, Luke 2:29-32*)
- **Whom did Anna tell about Jesus?** (*those who had been waiting on the Lord's salvation, Luke 2:38*)
- **How would Jesus provide salvation?** *Guide kids to think about Jesus' death on the cross. Remind the kids that the fair payment of sin is death and that Jesus died in our place. He took on the punishment of God's anger toward sin and died. Then He rose again to prove His sacrifice was enough.*
- **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.*
- **What other promises has God given us?** *Remind kids that God has promised salvation to everyone who trusts in Jesus. 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.*

"Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, and we can worship Him too." Review the **Memory Verse** with your child(ren).

Big Picture Question

"Part of our Bible story today makes more sense if we remember our big picture question and answer: ***Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.***

This means that Jesus completely understands what it feels like to be human. He can relate to our fears, our frustrations, the ways we are tempted, and our pain and sadness. Jesus also has all the power and glory of God. He is God the Son and was able to bear on the cross the full weight of God's anger toward sin."

"Jesus had an earthly family, just as we do. **Jesus' family line proved He is the Messiah.** Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises to Adam, Abraham, David, and more. 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 learned about the time Jesus was dedicated in the temple."

"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."

"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 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."

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video, Missions

Show the Lesson 4 [Questions from Kids video](#) and the [Bible Story video](#) at <https://www.sagemontchurch.org/connect/ministries/children/childrens-resources/>. Prompt kids to think about how we will know when Jesus returns to earth. Discuss what they think it will be like.

Missions Moment

Play the "Relentless Love (Part 2)" missions video from the website. "This month, we have been learning about missionaries in Brazil. In a previous video, we met missionaries Brandi and Amanda. They want people in Brazil to know Jesus personally and to worship Him, like Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah. Brandi and Amanda led another woman named Amanda to Jesus, and now God can use her to share the good news with even more people!" Pray for Amanda, other new believers in Brazil, and the missionaries your church supports.

Prayer

"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 our obedience an overflow of our love for You. Thank You for sending Jesus the Messiah to save us. Amen."

CRAFT: Memory Verse Banner

Help kids write the Memory Verse phrase: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." **John 1:1** on the banner and then decorate with markers and crayons. When they have finished decorating their banner, kids will cut out the banner. Next, help kids thread the dowel rods through the holes. Place a glue dot at the top and another at the bottom to anchor the dowel rod in place.

"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 is what our key passage teaches. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the start of creation, and He is God the Son."