



LESSON GUIDE

Jesus Was Dedicated

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point: Simeon and Anna worshipped Jesus as the Messiah

Key Passage: John 1:1-2

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

Do Together

Pray:

Lord, You are good and Your mercy goes on forever. We praise You alone because of you 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.

Big Picture Question:

Part of the story will make more sense if we remember our big picture question and answer. Can anyone say it for us? *[Allow responses]* Great job! *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.

Bible Story

Watch Video and read from Story Page Insert

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.

Discussion *(5 minutes)*

Use the following questions to help prompt your child in their thinking and answers:

- Ask:** 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
- Ask:** Why did Simeon say "You can let me die now"?
Simeon had seen God fulfill His promise to send the Messiah. Luke 2:38
- Ask:** Whom did Anna tell about Jesus?
Anna told those who had been waiting on the Lord's salvation. Luke 2:38
- Ask:** 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.
- Ask:** 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.
- Ask:** What other promises has God given us?
Remind kids that God 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.

Key Passage

- Say:** When we read and learn God's word, it helps us to know what God wants to tell us. Let's find this week's verse in the Bible together.
- Read:** John 1:1-2 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."
- Explain:** John began his book with this key passage. His writing, inspired by God, 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 now end. At the start of creation, Jesus was already there. He was with God the father and God the Spirit then, and He is eternally God the Son.

Going Deeper With Your 3rd-5th Grader

Here are some verses and a few questions that you can go through with your 3rd-5th grader to help them find a personal application of this week's lesson.

Ask: 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 service for families, discuss the details: what dedication means and how everyone in the church commits to helping children know, love and serve God. Read 1 Kings 8:60-61

Ask: What does a life lived for God look like? How should the life of someone who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior differ from the life of someone who doesn't?

Lead kids to identify that the life of a believer should be marked by the work of the Holy Spirit in that person's life. The Holy Spirit grows us to become more like Christ. A believer recognizes Jesus as King and repents of sin. Differences are not always obvious, but unbelievers lack the Holy Spirit and are unrepentant. Read Galatians 5:22-23

Ask: Why can we have peace even in difficult circumstances?

Invite kids to share their ideas. Emphasize that Jesus commanded all believers to make disciples among the nations. (Matthew 28:19) We can all be involved by telling others about Jesus in our own communities, supporting missionaries through prayer or giving, or obeying God's call to go to the nations. Read Psalm 4:8

Pray Together

God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. The news that Jesus came to save people from sin is such good news. We confess that we do not always keep our promises, but You, Lord, are faithful. Help us trust in Jesus for our salvation. Amen.

Handouts

- Journal Page
- Seeing for Yourself and Who did What? Page