

Sunday 22nd March - Jesus Presented at the Temple

Luke 2:22-40

Use this guide to help engage your kids & point them to Jesus while we're not able to gather together on Sundays. The themes are continuing from the curriculum the kids have been working through on Sundays. Use whatever you find helpful & will serve your kids well. The sections in **bold italic** are pointers for you to help use the material well.

Show the video or Jesus' dedication at the Temple. Alternatively you can tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips (see story at end of notes).

After watching the video, use any of the following as you feel appropriate for your child(ren)

Questions to discuss:

(You can read or refer to Luke 2:22-40)

- 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 your child to think about Jesus' death on the cross. Remind your child 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 your child 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.)**

Pray

- **Spend some time praying together**
- Thank God for his promises
 - **(Be specific with what his promises are & thanking him for how he is faithful)**
- Ask God to help us to follow him today
 - **(Include praying for things we are worrying about & how we can keep our eyes on God in all situations)**

Activity Ideas

(Try as many as you like!)

1) Worksheets

(See links on website for printable items)

2) Match words

Materials:

large sheet of paper or poster board

markers

index cards

Write *Jesus, Simeon, Anna, Bible, God, human, temple* on a large sheet of paper in different colors. Write the same words in corresponding marker colours on index cards. Lay the large sheet of paper on the floor. Read a word on an index card, and identify the colour the word is printed in. Guide your child to find the like-coloured word on the large paper and lay the card on its matching word. Recall portions of the Bible story as words are matched.

(Application: You matched the words Jesus, God, and human. Is Jesus God or a human? Our key passage tells that Jesus and God are the same, but Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up, and He had a family. Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Simeon and Anna understood this. They knew that Jesus was the One that God promised to save people from sin.)

3) Wait for it

Materials:

clock with a second hand

Suggest a simple action to your child, such as run on the spot, pat your head, or shake a friend's hand. Ask your child to wait to begin moving until a signal is given. Watch a clock's second hand as your child anticipates beginning to move. Build excitement and finally give the signal for the child to move. Continue playing and emphasize the waiting, pre-movement time.

(Application: Simeon and Anna waited a long time to meet Jesus. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Savior who would rescue people from sin. How happy he was when he met Baby Jesus! When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked God and told people that Jesus the Savior had been born. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus and told others the good news.)

4) Make worship streamers

Materials:

scissors (adult use)

light-colored fabric

tape

craft sticks

markers

Cut light-colored fabric into 4-inch wide strips about 3 feet long. Tape one end of the fabric to a craft stick to serve as a handle. Provide markers and allow your child to decorate a streamer. Write the story point on your child's streamer. Play worship music and encourage your child to wave their streamer, sing, and worship Jesus.

(Application 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.)

(Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.)

Jesus Was Dedicated at the Temple

Luke 2

Jesus came to earth as a baby. He was born in Bethlehem. **Jesus' parents on earth were Mary and Joseph. They took care of Jesus.**

One day, when Jesus was still a baby, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple. The temple was the place where people went to pray and worship God. **Many years before, God had given special rules to all the people of Israel. One rule was, "When a woman's first son is born, his parents must present him to God."** Another rule was that the child's parents should give an offering to God. **Mary and Joseph obeyed God** and brought two birds as an offering.

A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem, and he loved God. He knew that God had promised to send someone special to save people from sin. **God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah who would rescue people from their sins. Simeon trusted God.**

That day, God told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus there, and he picked Jesus up in his arms. Simeon was so happy! Simeon knew that Jesus was special. Simeon praised God. **He prayed, "God, I am ready to die. You kept Your promise, and I have seen the One who will save people from sin."**

Mary and Joseph heard Simeon say those important words. Jesus was going to save people from sin! **Simeon talked to Mary and Joseph. He said being Jesus' mother would be very good, but it would be very hard.** Some people would love Jesus, but other people would not like Him at all. **Some things would happen that would make Mary very sad.**

Another woman was in the temple, a prophetess named Anna. Anna was very old. Anna did not have a family, so she stayed at the temple all the time and worshiped God.

Anna walked toward Simeon, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. **When Anna saw Jesus, she thanked God.** People had been waiting a long time for God to send the special One who would save people from sin. **Anna told other people the good news: Jesus the Savior is here!**

Mary and Joseph did everything they were supposed to do at the temple. Then they went back home. Jesus grew up, and He was strong and healthy and wise. God was happy with Jesus.

Christ Connection: God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Savior. Jesus came to 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips:

Hold a baby doll; allow your child to hold a baby doll while you tell the Bible story. When Simeon and Anna are introduced, ask your child to carefully pass the doll to another person.