

Unit 19 • Session 4 March 22

Jesus Was Dedicated

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2

Story Point:

Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE:

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.

Countdown

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

Introduce the session (2 min.)

Big picture question (1 min.)

Giant timeline (1 min.)

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

Christ connection

Group demonstration (5 min.)

Review (4 min.)

Key passage (5 min.)

Group game (5–10 min.)

Missions moment (6 min.)

Announcements (2 min.)

Prayer (2 min.)

Additional idea

TEACH the Story

Session Title: Jesus Was Dedicated

Bible Passage: Luke 2

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

Key Passage: 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.

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

God is good to those who put their hope in Him! Let's sing and worship God together now.

Opening Song "I Am"

Theme Song "Jesus Messiah"

Unit Song "God is Here"

Unit Song "Grace and Truth"

Introduce the session (2 min.)

leader attire

wristwatch

[Becca walks on stage and sees Oliver sitting slumped over at the table staring at his watch.]

Becca • Hey, Oliver. Is your watch broken or something? Why are you staring at it like that?

Oliver • No, I keep looking at the time because I'm waiting for my Grandma to get here. She's flying in today for our big family reunion, and I can't wait to see her. It's been a long time since her last visit, and I've missed her a lot. Her flight doesn't get here for another two hours, and it feels like it's taking an eternity.

Becca • I'm so glad you get to spend time with your Grandma this weekend! I know what you mean about it being hard to wait for something.

Oliver • No kidding. I've tried everything I can think of to pass the time. I've stared at all the clocks in my house, watched some paint dry, I've even offered to do my mom's taxes!

Becca • But those are all super boring things! Of course the time won't seem to go any faster while watching paint dry! If anything, watching paint dry makes time feel like it's slowing down.

Oliver • Hmm. You have a good point. What can I do instead to take my mind off how much longer I have to wait?

Becca • I have a great idea. Let's hear another Bible story. It's a story about when Jesus was dedicated at the temple as a baby. Two people there had waited years to see God's promised Messiah.

Oliver • So they'd been waiting for Jesus even longer than I've been waiting for my Grandma? Let's hear it!

Big picture question (1 min.)

Oliver • The big picture question we have been answering these last few weeks is, *Is Jesus God or a human?* Does anyone remember the answer?

Becca • That's right! *As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.* This is good news for us! Jesus is fully human, which means He has a human body; He has felt human emotions and temptation. But Jesus has no sin. That is what makes Him the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Big picture answer (1 min.)

Oliver • We have heard several stories that led up to Jesus coming into the world as the Messiah. We learned that **Jesus' family line proves that He is the Messiah.** Many of the people we read about in the Old Testament were part of Jesus' family tree.

Becca • Then we learned that **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.** John helped people see their sin and their need for a Savior. Next we learned that **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve first disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. Thankfully, God already had a rescue mission planned to bring His children back to Himself. Jesus is the fulfillment of that plan!

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Luke 2.

Watch the Bible story video "Jesus Was Dedicated."

Becca • Why is it so hard to wait patiently?

Oliver • I'm having a hard time waiting patiently to see my grandma! I'm so excited to see her I wish time would just hurry up!

Becca • In our story, Simeon was waiting to see the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had promised that Simeon would see God's promised Savior before he died. It was really special that the Holy Spirit guided Simeon. In the time before Jesus' death on the cross people had to offer sacrifices at the temple. And even then they didn't have direct access to God. All that changed with Jesus' crucifixion. Now, all believers have the Holy Spirit living inside them!

Oliver • It's really cool that God directed Simeon to go to the temple where Jesus was being dedicated. It's like God was speaking to him in a special way.

Becca • God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. He also gives us the Holy Spirit and other believers to help us understand His Word and obey it!

Oliver • Simeon trusted God's promise to him, and he had the special opportunity to see Jesus as a baby. **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.** They knew that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised, and they worshiped Him.

Becca • When we learn about Jesus we can praise God too! We can thank God for allowing us to know and follow Jesus.
Christ Connection

Tip: Consider using your Bible and the gospel poster provided to explain to kids how to become a Christian. Anytime you invite kids to respond in a large group setting, make sure you have counselors available to speak with kids individually to answer questions.

Oliver • Simeon prophesied that Jesus was the Savior for the whole world, not just the Jews. He said that God's salvation was a light to the Gentiles, or non-Jews, and to God's people Israel.

Becca • [Read Psalm 119:174.] Simeon longed to see the promised Messiah, Jesus. Today we have the opportunity to experience God's salvation when we trust in Jesus. 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 salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we can share the good news.

Group demonstration (5 min.)

large glass container
clear soda
raisins

Display a large glass container filled with clear soda. Invite a volunteer up and give him a small handful of raisins to drop into the soda. Ask the class to observe what happens to the raisins. At first they will all sink to the bottom. After a few moments, the raisins will move up and down in the container. Bubbles get trapped in the wrinkles causing the raisins to float to the surface where the bubbles can escape.

Oliver • At first I thought this was going to be really lame. Raisins in the bottom of a container of soda? Boring! After awhile, it was really cool to see them bounce up and down like that! Dancing raisins! Who knew that was even possible?

Becca • Sometimes you have to wait patiently before you get to see something spectacular. Simeon waited patiently to see something even more incredible. God allowed Simeon to see Jesus, the Messiah, before he died! Now that's something worth waiting for. Both **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah** when they saw Him.

Oliver • So I guess sometimes it really does pay to wait for something. Simeon didn't know exactly when the Messiah would show up. He just knew that God had made a promise, and God always keeps His promises!

Becca • Simeon showed great faith by trusting God's promise. In the end He praised God for sending the Savior to rescue His people from their sin.

Review (4 min.)

Becca • Let's review some of the details we have learned in our story to see how much we can remember.

Invite the kids to answer the following questions:

Where did Mary and Joseph take Jesus? (*the temple in Jerusalem, Luke 2:22*)

What did they offer as a sacrifice? (*two birds, Luke 2:24*)

What did God promise Simeon? (*He would see the Messiah before he died, Luke 2:26*)

What did Simeon prophesy about Jesus? (*He would save the Jews and Gentiles from sin, Luke 2:32*)

Is Jesus God or a human? (As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.)

What does this story teach me about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission better?

Key passage (5 min.)

Read John 1:1-2 and encourage the kids to read along in their Bibles. Display the key passage slide for kids to read.

Sing the key passage song.

Becca • These two verses in John teach us that Jesus has always existed along with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Oliver • I know that Jesus has always been fully God, but has Jesus always been human?

Becca • Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem He was spirit. That means Jesus didn't have a physical body that you could touch. The big word for when Jesus became a human is *incarnation*.

Oliver • When Jesus became human, He didn't give up His divine nature.

Becca • That's right. It's the answer to our big picture question. **As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.** Jesus didn't have to choose between being fully God and fully human. He is both at the same time!

Read Key passage slide

Group game (5–10 min.)

Unlock it

combination locks, 3

stickers, 3 matching pairs (6 total)

paper slips

pen

timer

Before the session, place a sticker on the backs of three combination locks. Write each lock's combination on a slip of paper marked with a matching sticker. Hide the locks in the room. Keep the written-out combinations with you. Form three teams and assign each team a lock. Tell each team their combination numbers in a scrambled order. The teams must choose one of two strategies they'll use to win:

When you say go, the team will race to find its lock. Once they find the lock, they have to decipher the correct combination using the scrambled numbers.

When you say go, the team will delay their search for 30 seconds, but you'll give them the correct combination to their lock.

Teams will race each other to find their locks and determine the correct combination. The first team to return with an open lock wins.

Oliver • Which strategy worked better? If you play this game again, would you choose the same strategy?

Becca • How is this game like waiting patiently and listening for God's instructions? Is it ever hard to wait for God?

Oliver • Sometimes we get impatient with God and want to do things our own way. But God has perfect timing for everything. Simeon was aware of the Holy Spirit's leading in his life, and as a result, he went to the temple and met Jesus, just as God had promised.

Missions moment (6 min.)

Play the “Relentless Love (Part 2)” missions video.

Oliver • 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.

Announcements (2 min.)

Make any announcements from your kids' ministry.

Prayer (2 min.)

Becca • Let's pray.

God, thank You for giving us Your Word. We praise You for Your faithfulness in keeping Your promises. We thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Help us listen for Your leading in our lives. Amen.

Additional idea

Waddling cats

Becca • I have a fun game we can play that reminds us how important it is to listen for God's leading in our lives.

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. You will play a similar game to "Simon Says" with a catch. The kids will only do the movement with you if what you say makes sense. For example, if you say "Snakes slither," then the kid will mimic you as you move your arms back and forth like a slithering snake. If you say "Cats waddle," the kids should remain still.

Oliver • What a silly game! Did you have any strategies you used for making sure you only did the movements that made sense?

Becca • **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.** Simeon could tell the Holy Spirit was guiding him to the temple that day in our story. But our feelings are not the Holy Spirit. We must spend time studying God's Word and praying to Him so we can tell the difference between the Holy Spirit's guidance and our own thoughts and feelings. We can lead ourselves away from God, but the Holy Spirit will always lead us to Jesus.