



UNIT 19 | SESSION 2

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

MATTHEW 2; LUKE 2

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

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, God's own Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

As the narrative of Jesus’ early days on earth unfolded, several unique people are introduced who teach us lessons about our own journey. We find the wise men who sought Jesus with persistence, Herod whose power was threatened by this newborn King, and others such as Simeon and Anna—both who demonstrated a remarkable devotion to the Lord.

In Luke 2, Simeon and Anna are described as people who are deeply committed, faithful, and devout followers of God. Simeon is described as one who was old in years—near death—and desperately waiting for the Messiah to come. So, you can imagine the significance of that moment as Simeon saw the Christ child and rejoiced.

Anna, also old in years, had been faithfully worshiping God through fasting and prayer in the temple for 84 years. It is easy to imagine the joy she had upon seeing Jesus in the temple and her eager desire to tell everyone about this glorious child.

Both Simeon and Anna came upon the incredible blessing of seeing, celebrating, and worshiping Jesus because of their faithfulness to the Lord. Both were in the place the Lord wanted them to be, faithful to God over the years, and daily looking for the Lord in everything they did.

Imagine if your daily decisions were influenced by similar factors. You were deeply committed to being in the places God wanted you to be, you were seeking to be faithful over the decades, and in all that you did you were pursuing what the Lord might have for you. What would have to change in your life, in your motivations, and in your decisions to make this true of you? In what ways would you see and experience the blessings of God’s good gifts even more?

Faithfulness like that of Simeon and Anna doesn’t earn any additional degree of salvation before God. But it can produce more opportunities to see the work of God in your life, even if it’s only because you’re more attuned. What a blessing that would be for each of us as well.

TERMS TO KNOW

Dedication: the act of setting apart persons or things to God. The act is usually accompanied by an announcement of what is being done or intended and by prayer asking for divine approval and blessing.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Has anyone ever promised you something and kept the promise? How long did it take for that promise to be fulfilled? Did you ever wonder if the promise would not be kept?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Simeon and Anna” on the activity page.

SAY “Long ago, God promised to send the Messiah—the One who would save His people from their sins. In today’s story, we will learn how a man named Simeon, and a woman named Anna recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: LOOK FOR



Choose an object in the room for kids to guess. Direct kids to look around the room as you describe the object by saying, “Look for something that is ___” (color, shape, size, etc.). Direct kids to raise their hands and take turns guessing which object you chose.

Continue the activity for several rounds, allowing kids to provide the clues about new objects for the rest of the group.

SAY “You were given clues to help you recognize the object and find it with your eyes. Today’s story teaches us that two people, Simeon and Anna, had been waiting and looking for the Messiah God promised. Finally, they got to see the promised Messiah with their own eyes. Let’s read our story to learn how they responded to seeing Jesus.”

OPTION 2: RAISE A HALLELUJAH

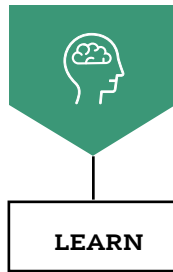
Before the session, write each letter of the word HALLELUJAH on separate index cards. Scatter the index cards on the floor. Tell kids that the letters spell a mystery word.

Provide kids with tape and lead them to work together to unscramble the letters to spell out the mystery word. Offer hints as needed if kids have trouble spelling out the word. Direct kids to tape the mystery word up high on a wall. (Tip: Point to the word HALLELUJAH when you share how Simeon and Anna praised God in the Bible story.)

SAY “Great job spelling out the word hallelujah! Does anyone know what hallelujah means? [Allow responses.] Hallelujah means ‘Praise the Lord.’ It’s a word used in the Bible to recognize that God is worthy of our praise. In today’s Bible story, Simeon and Anna praised God for keeping His promise to send the Messiah.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so glad you are here today! If you brought your Bible with you today, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to any kid who does not have one.] As we read our Bibles over the next few weeks, we will be in the New Testament. Can anyone tell me what the first four books of the New Testament are called? [Allow responses.] That’s right! They are called the Gospels.

Today’s Bible story can be found in the Gospel of Luke. The Gospels teach us about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. As we read our Bible story, we will learn about an important event in the life of Jesus that happened when He was just a baby. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

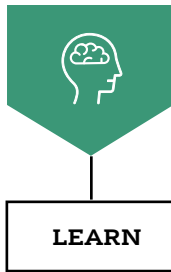
SAY “ We will continue to learn our big picture question and answer over the next few weeks. Our big picture question is, **What did Jesus do to save us?** The answer we will learn is, **Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.** Let’s say the big picture question and answer together. **What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.**

Only Jesus can save us from our sins. In our Bible story, Simeon and Anna both recognized that the Savior had come. They rejoiced because the Savior had finally arrived! We can praise God for sending Jesus to save us as He lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Throughout the Old Testament, God promised a Savior would come and save His people from their sins. He said that the Savior would dwell on earth with people and be our Immanuel. Last week, we saw that the time had come for Jesus to be born. Jesus fulfilled God’s promise when He came to earth and was born in a lowly manger. Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us. But many people still did not realize that He was the promised Savior. In today’s story, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be dedicated. While there, they met two people who recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 2; Luke 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Dedicated.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS WAS DEDICATED

“**Mary and Joseph’s baby—God’s own Son—was a few days old when Mary and Joseph named Him Jesus, just like the angel had told them to do. When Jesus was a few weeks old, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem.**

Mary and Joseph wanted to obey God and His law. The law that God gave Moses said, “When a woman’s first son is born, his parents must dedicate him to the Lord.” The law also said that the child’s parents should give a sacrifice. **At the temple, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to the Lord and offered two birds as a sacrifice.**

Another man was at the temple. His name was Simeon. Simeon loved God, and He trusted in God’s promise to send a Messiah to save people from sin. God’s Spirit was with Simeon, and God had told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the One who would rescue people from their sin.

That day, God’s Spirit had led Simeon to the temple. Simeon saw Jesus and picked Him up in his arms. **God’s Spirit showed Simeon that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Simeon was so happy. He praised God and said, “Lord, you can let me die now. You kept Your promise, and I have seen the One who will save people from sin.”** Simeon said that Jesus would save God’s people, the Israelites, and Jesus would also save people from other nations.

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said. Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph. He told Mary that being Jesus’ mother would be a very good thing, but it would also be very hard. Some people would love Jesus, but others would hate Him. Things were going to happen that would make Mary very sad.

A woman named Anna was at the temple too. Anna’s husband had died, and Anna was very old. **She stayed at the temple and worshiped and served God all the time.** Anna came up to Simeon, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and she began to thank God. **Anna talked about Jesus to people who were waiting for God to keep His promise to send a Savior. She told them the good news: the Savior was here!**

Mary and Joseph finished dedicating Jesus and making sacrifices to God. They obeyed God’s law. Then they went back home to Nazareth. **Jesus grew up and was strong and healthy. He was wise, and God was happy with 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

STORYTELLING TIPS

Present a perspective: Tell the story from the perspective of either Anna or Simeon. Dress the part and share the story through their encounter with Jesus.

Display the temple: Display a picture of the temple in Jerusalem so kids can see where today’s story takes place.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

was the promised Messiah, God’s own Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Mary and Joseph were faithful to obey God’s law and dedicated Jesus at the temple. They offered sacrifices, and even though Jesus was sinless, He submitted Himself to the law and obeyed it perfectly. What man was at the temple while Jesus was being dedicated? [Allow responses.] The Spirit of God had led Simeon to the temple. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah.

What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? [Allow responses.] Simeon praised God! He thanked God for keeping His promise, and he rejoiced that Jesus would save people from all nations. He also told Mary that it would be hard to be Jesus’ mother because Jesus was going to be hated by some people.

Who else was at the temple and recognized Jesus as the Messiah? [Allow responses.] Yes, Anna was there and when she saw Jesus, she thanked God that the Savior had come. Anna was so happy the Savior had arrived that she couldn’t keep the news to herself. She shared the good news of the Savior’s arrival with others.

Jesus, the Messiah, had come to save people from their sins. He grew up wise and strong and lived a perfect life. Like Simeon and Anna, we can praise God that He sent Jesus to be our Savior. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ 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, God’s own Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 19, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we tell others about Jesus when we don’t really know what to say?
2. Who are some people you can share the good news of Jesus with?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show a world map and point to Puerto Rico. Explain to the kids that Puerto Rico is an island territory of the United States of America. Tell kids that it is in the northeastern area of the Caribbean Sea. Explain that people who live in Puerto Rico are called Puerto Ricans, and they are U.S. citizens.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “ Puerto Rico has faced difficult circumstances during the last few years, including challenges with their government, problems with money, two major hurricanes, six weeks of nonstop earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. But God is using the great needs in the area to open doors for missionaries to tell people about Jesus. ”

Play the missions video. Then explain to the kids that Itamar (EE tah mahr) Elizalde’s (el ee SAL day) team helps organize local churches and volunteer teams to assist the Puerto Rican people through difficult times. Tell the kids that the churches and volunteers help repair roofs on homes, paint homes, provide food and other items the people need, and serve as a support system to people who are living alone. Help kids understand that while the missionaries, churches, and volunteers are meeting the physical needs of the people, they also have opportunities to tell the people more about God’s Word and His Son, Jesus.

Pray that Itamar’s team will continue telling people about Jesus and that new churches will be started. Pray that more missionaries will come to tell the people about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:29 together.

SAY “ God’s people had waited for a Savior and finally He was here! The good news of Jesus is that by faith in Him, our sins are forgiven. Let’s work on learning our key passage. ”

Draw blank lines for each word of the key passage on a dry erase board. Invite kids to raise their hand and say a word found in the key passage. If a kid says a word that is in the key passage, write it in the correct blank. If he says an incorrect word, begin drawing a stick figure. For each incorrect guess, add a part of the stick figure. Continue until the verse is complete or until a complete stick figure is drawn. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “John Saw Jesus (John 1:29).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, God, for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and then die on the cross for our sins. Help us share the good news of Your salvation with others. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

