

Unit 19 • Session 4  
**Jesus Was Dedicated**

**Bible Passage:** Luke 2

**Story Point:** There is no one like Jesus.

**Key Passage:** John 1:1b

**Christ connection:** We can tell others the good news about Jesus.

**Bible Story for Toddlers**

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph obeyed God's words and brought Baby Jesus to the temple to give a gift to God. They brought two birds to give to God. A man named Simeon had been waiting to see the special King whom God had promised to send. God told Simeon that he would see God's special King before he died. When Mary and Joseph brought Baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon held Baby Jesus and praised God. Mary and Joseph were surprised! Then a woman named Anna also praised God and told people in the temple that Jesus was the special King whom God had promised to send. After that, Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus home. Jesus grew up, and God was with Him.

**Babies Gospel Gems**

Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple.  
Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus.  
God sent Jesus to earth to be our King.

**Babies Activities**

**Look in the Bible**

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**Say** • Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple. At the temple, Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus. We can tell others the good news about Jesus too! There is no one like Jesus. [Pray.]

**Sing a Bible story song**

*Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":*

Jesus \*is God's only Son, only Son, only Son!

Jesus \*is God's only Son; there's no one like Him!"

\*Substitute came to rescue us in the next round.

**Say** • God sent Jesus to earth to be our King. There is no one like Jesus!

**Make crown art**

Provide a crown cutout from construction paper for each baby. Help babies tear and press stickers, large adhesive jewels, or foam cutouts to the crowns. Talk about the Bible story.

**Say** • Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth to be our King. There is no one like Jesus!

**Explore different textures**

Provide a basket with various textures of gift wrapping ribbons, such as velvet, satin, lace, organza, raffia, and so forth. Make sure babies do not put ribbons in their mouths. As babies explore the basket, talk about how ribbons are used.

**Say** • We wrap gifts with ribbons sometimes. Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple to give a gift to God. There is no one like Jesus!

**Toddlers Activities**

**Circle time** (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

**Play out the Bible story**

Gather the Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Simeon, and Anna figures from the "Jesus Came to Earth" printable. Use a flannel board or metallic cookie sheet for toddlers to attach the figures as you tell the Bible story.

**Say** • Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus. There is no one like Jesus.

**Make puzzle art**

Print an extra copy of the Bible story picture for each child. Cut the picture into four strips. Provide construction paper and glue for toddlers to reassemble the picture. Point out Simeon and Baby Jesus as you retell the Bible story.

**Say** • Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus because they knew God sent Jesus to earth to be our King. There is no one like Jesus.

### **Practice the key passage**

Cut out two “Key Passage Dove” printables in the translation you use, and then place them in a gift bag. Bring the gift to each child, open it, and let her hold one dove as you read the key passage. Talk about the Bible story.

**Say** · Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple. They brought two birds to give to God to show thanks. There is no one like Jesus.

### **Invite guests**

Before the session, invite two senior adults to dress up as Simeon and Anna. Encourage the adults to retell the Bible story as if remembering that day.

**Say** · Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus. There is no one like Jesus. We can tell others the good news about Jesus too.

## **BONUS TEACHING**

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Dedicated

**Bible Passage:** Luke 2

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**Story Point:** There is no one like Jesus.

**Christ connection:** We can tell others the good news about Jesus.

**Transition activity:** Draw faces

Before class, print the “Simeon and Anna” printable for each toddler. Place each sheet in a plastic page protector. Provide washable dry erase markers for toddlers to draw expressions on the faces as you retell the Bible story, talking through what each real person might have felt when he or she saw Jesus.

**Say** · Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple to give a gift for God. There, Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus. They were happy! There is no one like Jesus! We can tell others the good news about Jesus.

**Play “My eyes have seen”**

Invite toddlers to stand with you as you say, “My eyes have seen ...” and then name a large object in the room at toddler’s eye level. Encourage toddlers to touch what you are looking at. Play as time allows. Retell the Bible story.

**Say** · God sent Jesus to be our King. Simeon had waited a long time to see God’s special King. When Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon said, “My eyes have seen my Savior!” There is no one like Jesus.

**Dance and freeze**

Play music and invite toddlers to move and wiggle freely. Pause the music and guide toddlers to freeze. Play again, varying the time between moving and freezing.

**Say** · Simeon waited to see Jesus, like you waited to dance. There is no one like Jesus! Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus.



# What Does Not Belong?

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Circle the ten things that do not belong in the picture.



Preschool Activity Pages

## Unit 19 • Session 4 Jesus Was Dedicated

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple.
- Simeon thanked God for keeping His promise to Simeon to let him see the Messiah.
- Anna the prophetess told other people that the Savior had come.
- Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 1:1

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did God keep the promise He made to Simeon?
- Why do you think Simeon said being Jesus' mother would be good but hard for Mary?
- What did Simeon and Anna do that we get to do now?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- If any of your children were dedicated before your congregation, tell them about the experience. Show pictures and explain the purpose of the dedication. Talk about how Jesus' dedication was different because He is God's Son.



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