

## Unit 19: Session 4 | Jesus is Dedicated<sup>1</sup>

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point :Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as 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.

Worship: We encourage you to spend time worshiping together as a family. [Here is a playlist of songs we sing regularly on Sunday mornings in Kids Ministry!](#)

### Introduce the Story (10 minutes)

Activity: How Long?

*Provide different scenarios and ask kids to guess how long they would wait in each scenario. Ask what scenario they would be willing to wait the longest for!*

- You are in line for the best roller coaster
- You are waiting for tickets to a cool new movie
- You are waiting for a dance recital to begin
- Make up your own as time allows!

### Teach the Story (10 minutes)

*Read the Bible story out loud; Feel free to read only the bolded words for babies/toddlers.*

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. **One day, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> From The Gospel Project for Kids, Younger Kids Leader Guide, Vol. 7, pgs. 50-65

**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 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.**

### **Apply the Story (10 minutes)**

*Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 2. Ask the following questions and lead kids to discuss. Questions go from easier to more difficult. Help kids find answers in the Bible for the questions that include Bible verses.*

1. 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).*
2. 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).*
3. Whom did Anna tell about Jesus? *(Answer: those who had been waiting on the Lord's salvation, Luke 2:38).*
4. 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 death. Then he rose again to prove His sacrifice was enough.)*

### **Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)**

*Pray together to close, taking prayer requests if desired. If time remains, distribute paper to each child and ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following:*

1. What does this story teach me about God?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?