



Luke

Jesus was Dedicated

Lesson #5
April

Lesson Objective: Jesus is God's own Son, dedicated to His purposes.

Activity: "My eyes have seen ..."

Invite kids to play a guessing game. Choose one player to lead. The leader should pick something in the room that is visible to everyone. They should say, "My eyes have seen ..." and then they should give a hint. For example, "My eyes have seen something that starts with the letter P." Or "My eyes have seen something green." Kids should try to guess what the leader has spotted. When a player guesses correctly, they get to be the new leader.

Connect activity to the lesson:

In the Bible, a man named Simeon had waited a long time to see something. What do you think he said when he finally saw what he had been waiting for? In today's lesson we will see how God proved Himself faithful once again when He fulfilled a promise to a man named Simeon. We will also learn how we can trust in God's faithfulness to us as well.

FAMILY WORSHIP: Play 2 or 3 worship songs

Prayer Request: How can we pray for each other?

Introduction:

God had chosen Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly parents. Mary and Joseph named their baby Jesus, obeying God in faith that salvation had indeed come into the world. (See Matt. 1:21.) When the time came for Jesus to be dedicated and Mary to be purified, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was about five weeks old when Mary and Joseph dedicated Him to the Lord and offered the required sacrifice. Simeon was also at the temple that day, not by mere coincidence but by the Holy Spirit's leading. (Luke 2:27) Simeon spent His life serving the Lord and looked forward to the day when God would keep His promise to comfort Israel. (See Isa. 57:18.) God promised that Simeon would live long enough to see the Messiah. That day had finally come. Imagine his joy. At last, the Savior was here!

Video: (4 min.) - "Jesus was Dedicated"

(Video Transcript)

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.

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.

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. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God's Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

Read -Luke 2

Debrief: Questions to ask

Why did Mary and Joseph dedicate Jesus? Why do some parents dedicate their children today? *(Mary and Joseph wanted to obey God's law by dedicating their Son. Sometimes parents today dedicate their children as a way to recognize that children belong to the Lord. Discuss the details and what it looks like at our church when we host dedication services for families.)*

What does a life lived for God look like? How should the life of someone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior differ from the life of someone who doesn't? *(The life of a believer should be marked by the work of the Holy Spirit in that person's life. The Holy Spirit grows us to become more like Christ. A believer recognizes Jesus as King and repents of sin. Differences are not always obvious, but unbelievers lack the Holy Spirit and are unrepentant.)*

Why can we have peace even in difficult circumstances? *(Discuss the different kinds of peace - peace with God, peace that comes from God, and peace with others. We have a right relationship with God and look forward to a future with Him forever. Through the Spirit, God can give us peace in hard times.)*

Apply the Story

Simeon saw the baby Jesus, took Him in his arms, and praised God. Simeon expressed prophetic praise, trusting by faith that God would keep His promise through this child: "My eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30). Through Jesus, everyone would be able to see God's plan. Jesus would be a light for all the nations. He would bring honor to Israel. Anna, a prophetess, also praised the Lord. At well over a hundred years old, Anna began to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to God's bringing salvation to His people.

Closing Activity – Popcorn Praise (supplies: balloons)

Invite kids to stand in a circle. Explain that kids will work together to tap inflated balloons into the air so they don't fall to the floor. Each time a kid taps a balloon, she should say something to complete this sentence: "God, I praise You because ..." Begin with one balloon. Gradually introduce additional balloons. Emphasize that when Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they praised God. Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah. We can praise God and worship Jesus as the Messiah. God has provided salvation through His Son, Jesus, for everyone who trusts in Him.

Close in with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.