

LESSON 3

Jesus Presented in the Temple

LUKE 2:22-52



BIBLE TRUTH

FROM THE TIME OF HIS DEDICATION AT THE TEMPLE, JESUS INCREASED IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 2:22–52 from the Scriptures or read story 81, “Jesus Presented in the Temple,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Jesus Is Lost!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical index cards with the word JESUS printed in large capital letters and the verse reference, Luke 2:49, printed under the name.
- ✓ Bible

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Grow in Wisdom

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a Bible
- ✓ a graduation cap
- ✓ a gift-wrapped box

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Draw a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Mary’s heart with all the things that she treasured up drawn inside of it. See Luke 2:19 and 2:51.

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Promise and Fulfillment

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus fulfilled the law—From the very beginning of his life, Jesus fulfilled the law. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised according to the everlasting covenant God made with Abraham (see Genesis 17:12). In Deuteronomy 16:6, God tells the people they must celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem (the place he chose as a dwelling for his name). Many Jews could not travel there due to distance, but those who were able to honor God’s command traveled in caravans for safety and companionship. Jesus kept the law perfectly, including these annual visits to Jerusalem. Luke 2:41 confirms that Mary and Joseph made this pilgrimage every year.

Jesus had a welcome party—Even though Jesus humbly came to earth, was born in a stable and laid in a manger, God made sure praise accompanied his advent. When Christ was born, God brought angels to sing, and wise men and shepherds to worship. And God made sure that praise accompanied Jesus when he was brought to the temple to be dedicated. Anna, a devout woman, worshiped and prayed day and night in the temple waiting for Israel’s Redeemer (Luke 2:38). As a prophetess, Anna recognized that Jesus was that Redeemer. She worshiped God and explained the significance of Jesus to those who were also waiting for redemption.

Jesus was drawn to the temple—It was common for families to make the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem in caravans for fellowship and protection. It is likely that Mary and Joseph had other younger children by this time. At age 12, Jesus was close to manhood and his parents must have assumed he was walking with another family in their caravan. Once they discovered he was missing, it took Mary and Joseph three days to find Jesus. All along, Jesus was at the temple sitting among the teachers and asking questions. When asked about his whereabouts, Jesus simply said, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). Already, Jesus was aware of his calling. He amazed those who met him, and he grew in favor with God and men.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

My Father

“My Father” was not a common expression for God among the Jews. There are only a few references to God as Father in the Old Testament. It was Jesus who came to introduce us to his Father, so that we too could call him Father. In John 5:18 we read that the Jews tried to kill Jesus for calling God his own Father.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Simeon's prayer is filled with the gospel. The Spirit of God had revealed to him that he would not die until he saw the Lord's Christ, which means God's anointed one, the Messiah (Luke 2:26). When Simeon looked upon Jesus, the Spirit confirmed that Jesus was indeed the deliverer of Israel whom God would use to bring salvation to his people. But there is more. Through Simeon's prayer, we discover that God's salvation would extend beyond the nation of Israel to the Gentiles, too (Luke 2:32). Yet God's salvation would not come with rejoicing; it would come with suffering. Simeon prophesied that Jesus the Messiah would be rejected and experience deep anguish—and his mother would experience anguish too (Luke 2:34–35). A sword pierced the side of Christ upon the cross and for Mary, the suffering of her Son must have been as a sword piercing her soul. No one, apart from Christ, would suffer more than Mary watching her Son Jesus be crucified.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 2:22–52 from the Scriptures or read story 81, "Jesus Presented in the Temple," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Jesus Is Lost!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two identical index cards with the word JESUS printed in large capital letters and the verse reference, Luke 2:49, printed under the name.
- ✓ Bible

Hide one of the index cards with just a little bit sticking out of the Bible marking Luke 2:49. Then go about telling the story of how Jesus was lost. Tell the children to pretend they are members of Mary and Joseph’s extended family and they need to find Jesus, who is lost. Show them the second, identical card to give them an idea of what they are looking for. Then set the class on a hunt in your classroom to find Jesus. Lay your Bible off to the side but allow the index card to stick out enough so that the children can see the beginning of the letter J. Once someone finds the card have them look up and read the listed verse and talk about why Jesus thought it was obvious he had to be in his Father’s house. (Even as a little boy, Jesus must have spent a lot of time in the temple. So it would have been natural for them to look for him there.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 20 MIN

Grow in Wisdom

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a Bible
- ✓ a graduation cap
- ✓ a gift-wrapped box

In Luke 2:52 we read that Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Use the above props to create a riddle for the class and in the end call them to aspire to grow in these three traits.

Ask the class to read through the entire second chapter of Luke. As they are finishing, place the three objects on the table and ask them to tell you what they stand for. Give them hints until they guess correctly.

- The Bible represents wisdom; God’s Word is the ultimate wisdom. Why should we seek wisdom?
(Read Proverbs 2:6–15; 3:13–24.)
- What does godly, biblical wisdom look like in the life of an eight- to twelve-year-old?
(To fear God is to keep his commandments. Godly wisdom for people of any age means that they are following God’s commands and seeking after God.)
- The graduation cap represents stature because in our culture education is the mark of maturity. Why should we seek to learn?
(Read Psalm 1. God’s Word is the most valuable thing we can learn, which is why Jesus was learning at the temple.)
- We have all heard people call kids your age “immature.” What does maturity look like in an eight- to twelve-year-old?
(Maturity is about acting your age. That is why a parent will correct their child when they are acting immature by saying, “Stop fooling around and start acting your age.” A mature young person pursues God over the pleasures of the world. Selfishness is immature: think of a baby and how it only knows how to demand but not give. Maturity is about taking ourselves out of the center and putting God and others there instead.)
- The gift-wrapped box represents favor. When a person is favored, they receive gifts. What kinds of things can we do to seek the favor of God and others? Read John 13:35.
(God wants our love and obedience. We show him love by loving others. There is nothing that draws favor like acts of love. We can all think of ways to follow God’s example and show love toward others. He gave up his only Son, Jesus, for us so that we might have eternal life. We show others love when we give things to them, for example, our time, money, or encouraging words.)
- How do we show love toward God?
(The Bible tells us plainly, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” [John 14:15].)

Knowing that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor among God and man, what kind of life do you think he lived? (Help the class put the answers to all the questions together to describe Jesus. Encourage the class to seek to honor God with their lives, as Jesus did.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Draw a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Mary’s heart with all the things that she treasured up drawn inside of it (Luke 2:19, 51).

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Promise and Fulfillment

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Have the children compare Simeon’s prayer in Luke 2:29–32 with God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 18:18; 22:18; and 26:4.

Have them answer the following questions individually and then discuss their answers together:

- **What is the significance of the words “all peoples” in Simeon’s prophecy?**
(God promised to bless all nations through Abraham, not just the Jews.)
- **Why is mentioning the Gentiles along with Israel significant?**
(God selected Abraham out of the heathen, idol-worshipping peoples of the earth. Israel was to remain separate from the other peoples. Now through Jesus, God removes barriers and brings salvation to all nations.)