

# JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 2:22-52



*From the time of His dedication at the temple,  
Jesus increased in favor with God and man.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**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 there was praise. When Christ was born, God brought angels to sing, and wise men and shepherds to worship. And God made sure there was praise when Jesus came to the temple to be dedicated. Anna, a devout woman, worshipped and prayed day and night in the temple waiting for Israel's Redeemer. As a prophetess, Anna recognized that Jesus was that Redeemer. She worshipped 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 travel 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 assumed he was with another family in their caravan. 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?" Already, Jesus was aware of His calling. He amazed those who met Him, and He grew in favor with God and men.

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### WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Simeon's prayer is filled with the gospel. When Simeon looked upon Jesus he saw God's salvation. This salvation would not just be for the Jews but for the Gentiles as well. Simeon also revealed that there would be grief for Mary as her soul would be pierced by a sword. Mary would indeed suffer as she watched Jesus crucified.

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

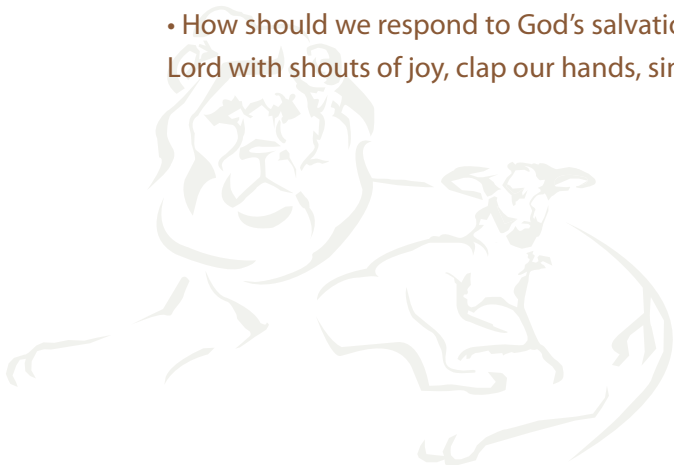
**Bible Passage: Psalm 98:1-9**

#### **Connecting the passage to Christ:**

Christ is the one who will judge the world in righteousness. It is through Jesus that God made His salvation and righteousness known to the nations. One prime example of this is Simeon's reaction when he said, "For my eyes have seen your salvation." Simeon was excited to see the Savior!

#### **Questions for reflection:**

- Why can we assume the psalmist is referring to Jesus when we read about the salvation of the Lord? (There is no salvation from God apart from the cross. Whether Israel is being saved from an immediate enemy or from sin, all salvation is ultimately found in the work of Jesus Christ.)
- How should we respond to God's salvation? What does the Psalmist suggest? (We should worship the Lord with shouts of joy, clap our hands, sing, and make music with all types of instruments.)



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### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

**Supplies:**

Cut out or purchase yellow or gold circles to represent large gold coins.

Have the children draw a picture of the temple (God's house) on one side and a heart on the other. Tell them that Mary treasured up all that took place in her heart, which means that she remembered it and thought about it to understand it. Tell them that the coin is to help them remember something about today's Bible lesson. Ask them for suggestions for things they could remember.

Tell them the most important thing they could remember is the very part that Mary and Joseph did not fully understand - that Jesus was God. In fact, this truth, that has been fully revealed to us in the Bible, is the best treasure of all!



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### REMEMBERING THE PASSOVER

**Supplies:**

- a plant branch with some red paint
- a picture of a lamb
- a box of crackers

The Passover is a critical component of God's plan of redemption. Once again the Passover factors into the story line. Here in Luke 2:41 the Passover is being celebrated again. Help the children remember the significance of this feast.

• What is the significance of the lamb, branch, and blood (represented by the red paint)? (The people of Israel were told to place the blood of a lamb on their door frames and the angel of death would pass over them.)

• What did the killing of the lamb and placing the blood on the door post represent? (The blood pointed to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. God accepts Jesus' sacrifice and allows His judgment to pass over all those who trust in the blood of Jesus.)

• Why did the Israelites have unleavened bread? (They needed to be ready to leave at a moment's notice and didn't have time to allow their bread to rise. Once the blood was shed and the Passover complete, their salvation would come quickly. That was when God led them through the Red Sea.)

### GROW IN WISDOM

**Supplies:**

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

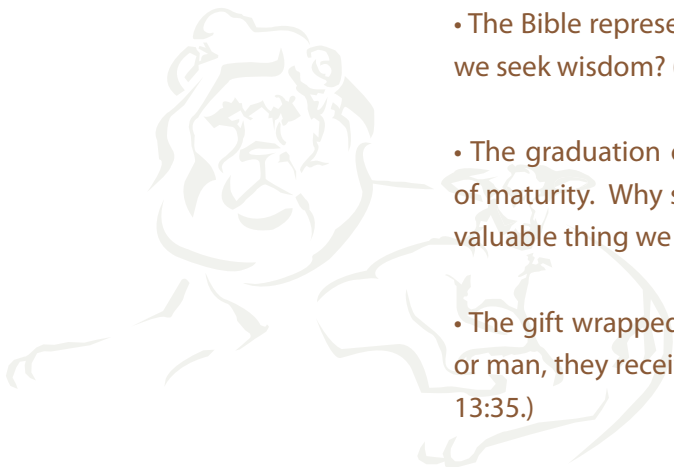
In Luke 2:52 we read that Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Use the above props to create a riddle for the class and in the end call them to aspire to grow in these three traits.

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 as necessary until they guess correctly.

• The Bible represents wisdom as God's word is the ultimate wisdom. Why should we seek wisdom? (Read Proverbs 2:6-15 and 3:13-24.)

• The graduation cap represents stature, as 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.)

• The gift wrapped box represents favor. When a person is favored by either God or man, they receive gifts. Why should we seek God and man's favor? (Read John 13:35.)



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### THE CLOAK

#### Supplies:

- Bright white fabric (4' x 6')
- Purple fabric (4' x 3')
- Tan muslin like fabric (4' x 3')
- 3 feet of red 1.5" ribbon
- white sparkle glitter
- tacky glue
- Velcro

Make a prop to match the different clothes of Jesus to tell the Gospel story. Cut a piece of white fabric 4 feet wide and six feet long. Then sew a piece of purple fabric 4'x3' to a piece of tan fabric of the same size along the 3'sides. Now place the white on top of the combination of the purple and the tan with the good seem of the tan inside. (The purple and tan sewn together should be the same size as the white.) Sew around three sides of the two to form a pillow case. Turn the whole inside out and sew the opening closed all but 2 inches that you leave open.

Take a 3' piece of 1.5 inch red ribbon and sew a scrap of the tan cloth to the end of it. Tuck the ribbon inside the 2" opening. You can secure the tan end to the larger cloak with a piece of Velcro. Later in the skit when you talk about the Soldiers piercing Jesus' side, this ribbon can be pulled out to depict a dramatic demonstration of the blood flowing.

Take white sparkle glitter and glue spots at random all over the white side.

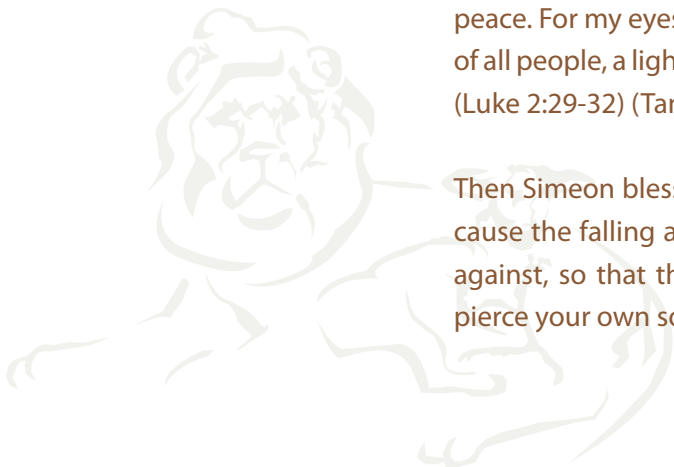
The skit is designed to use the cloth to tell the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy of the coming Messiah. Use the scriptures below as a guide but act out each of the scriptures. Take note of the corresponding acting hints.

Order of Cloak segments with instructions:

Swaddling cloths – When the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7) (Cloak wrapped up to look like a baby tan side out.)

Simeon - Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32) (Tan side out, Simeon holds the baby up to heaven.)

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."



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Touch his clothes - "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." freed from her suffering. power had gone out from him. "Who touched my clothes?" fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. your faith has healed you (Mark 5:27-) (Cloak folded in half with white in, worn like the outer cloak of Jesus tan side out.)

Lilies of the field - "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. (Cloak is waved purple side up.) If this is how he clothes the grass of the field, will he not much more clothe you?"

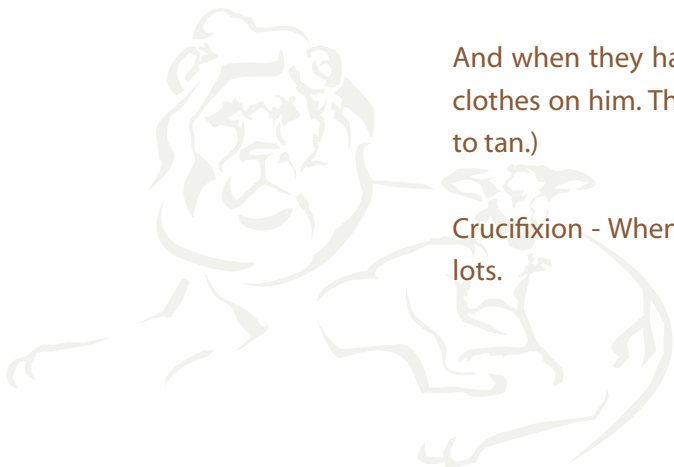
Transfiguration - There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. (Matthew 17) (White side of the cloak is suddenly shown.)

Washing of the disciples feet - After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. (Cloak is folded back in half with tan side first taken off and then used as a towel.)

Soldiers - They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. And they struck him in the face. (Tan taken off and flipped around to purple side.)

And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. (Purple turned back around to tan.)

Crucifixion - When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.



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About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" - which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Tan taken off and thrown to the floor.)

Pierced the side of Christ - But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. (John 19:13-34) (Tan cloth picked up and red ribbon pulled from the cloth.)

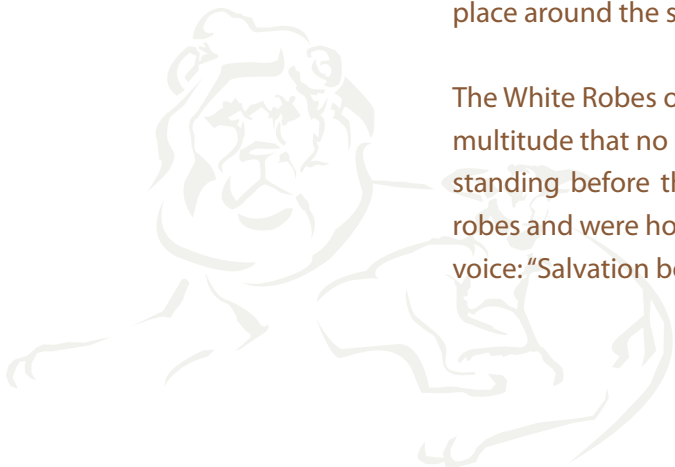
Joseph of Arimathea - Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. (Tan cloth wrapped around the left arm as covering the body of Jesus.)

Resurrection - There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. (The white side once again exposed as the story of the resurrection told.)

Burial cloth - Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. (John 20) (White folded under and the tan made back into the shape of a baby just like when Simeon held it up.)

Clothe yourself with Christ - The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. . . . Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (Roman's 13:12-14) (The muslin dropped and the white place around the shoulders as a cloak.)

The White Robes of the saints - After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."



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... they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ... Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7) (White cloak wrapped around like a warm robe on a cold day with great joy.)





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### PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

### IN CLASS PROJECT

#### AN ACTIVITY

**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.

### FOR THE OLDER GRADES

#### COMPARING THE PROMISE WITH THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE

**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? (First 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.)

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

My Father was not a common expression for God among the Jews. They may have said God our Father but 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 could call Him our Father. In John 5:18 we read that the Jews tried to kill Jesus for calling God His Father.