



Mary & Joseph Take Baby Jesus to the Temple

Luke 2:22-40

God Statement: Jesus is God's Gift

KEY VERSE: "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us."
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is God's Gift

In today's lesson, we are going to continue learning about how Jesus is God's Gift.

SAY:

Let's take a few minutes and go around and share our favorite memory from this Christmas. Everyone take a minute to think of something. Alright, we're going to go in a circle and everyone can share. *Allow kids to take turns sharing briefly their favorite part of Christmas.*

Christmas is such a special time with family and friends. There is something even more important about this time. Do you remember what the best Christmas gift of all was? Jesus, God's Gift! He was born on Christmas in a manger. We've talked about many important people in the story of Jesus' birth, and today we're going to look at two more people! First, I have an important question for you. How hard is it for you to wait to open Christmas gifts? *Pause for response.*

There's so much excitement, just seeing the gifts under the tree. Well, just like we have to wait to open those special gifts, these two people, Simeon and Anna, had waited a very long time to see the most special gift of all, Jesus! Before we find out if they got to see the gift, let's do an activity!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Puzzle Race

Supplies: 4-5 wooden puzzles

Say: *When Jesus was born, it was like a puzzle! Mary and Joseph didn't know how it would all play out and they had to trust that all the "pieces" would fall into place while they waited patiently. Today we get to learn about two very special people who told Mary and Joseph, how Jesus would change the world! They got to see some of the unknown pieces to the "puzzle" fall into place! Sometimes it's hard to trust when we can't see the whole picture. Mary, Joseph, and our two new friends had to be very patient and wait for God to show them Jesus the Savior!*

Directions: Have children get into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a puzzle. Have children race to put the puzzle together as fast as they can, but they can't use the picture on the box!

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us."
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: Temple

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

I wonder what this is... Do you know what this building is called? Oh, a **temple**, that’s right! The temple was a very special place in the Big God Story. I wonder why it’s in our Wardrobe today. I bet we will find out soon. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Mary & Joseph Take Baby Jesus to the Temple

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: none

God honors our faith! What an amazing thing. Simeon had faith his whole life to see what God had promised him. Same with Anna. God is looking for faith, and in the Bible, Jesus praises children for having great faith (Luke 18:17).

Let's take a minute to ask the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts about areas in our lives where God is calling us to have faith. Maybe you're struggling with something that you think will never get better. Or maybe you need faith for God to help someone you love. Let's ask God to increase our faith today.

Invite the kids to be quiet for a moment and ask God where He wants them to have faith. After a few minutes, invite the kids to pray simple sentences, asking God for faith in these areas.

Thank you for sitting so quietly and spending time listening to God. If you would like to do so, I would love for us to take turns finishing this sentence prayer out loud: ***“God, I ask for faith about _____.”***

Model this for the kids by starting with your own sentence and invite a few leaders to do the same.

OPTION: Gather the kids together in small groups with a leader. They can finish the sentence in their small group.

God is so good, and He truly is faithful. We can trust in Him!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you know that God is our Promise Keeper. May you trust that He is faithful. He gave us the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Luke 2:22-40).**

What very special place did Jesus’ parents take Him to in Jerusalem? (the temple).

2. **Who were the two people waiting to see baby Jesus in the temple? (Simeon & Anna).**
3. **Why were both of them so excited to see baby Jesus? (He was the promised Savior).**
4. **Have you ever waited for something amazing, for a very long time? (special trip, baby brother/sister, etc.) How did you celebrate when that finally happened?**

5. We can celebrate the Good News of Jesus every day! Let's take a few minutes to thank God for sending His Son for us.

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Puppet Story Props

Supplies: puppet page, popsicle sticks, glue sticks, scissors, markers/crayons

***Say:** Today, we heard about two people who waited a very long time to see the promised King arrive, Jesus! What an amazing story about how God has always had a big plan for Jesus to come and save us all. We're going to make some puppets today to help us take this story home with us and share it with others.*

Directions: pass out a puppet page for each child. Have the children color the characters and cut them out. As they color, discuss who each character is from the story we learned about today (Anna, Simeon, Mary, Joseph). Have the children glue a popsicle stick to the back of each puppet character.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and to

Adventures with GOD!

PATTERNS FOR THE PUPPETS

