



## Mary and 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." Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV**

### CHECK-IN

*(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

*(10 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 learn about how Jesus is God's Gift

**Say:** Wow, Christmas was such a special time! Let's each share our favorite parts of Christmas. Did you have a favorite food you ate? A favorite gift you gave or received? Wow! That's amazing. Do you remember what the best gift of all is? Jesus! That's right!

### **MAKE: Jesus is God's Gift Craft**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they will be making a craft!

**Supplies:** coloring page, ribbon, glue stick, markers/crayons

**Directions:** Have a few kids come up at a time to complete the craft or gather all the kids at once. Give each kid a coloring page and crayons/markers. Encourage them to decorate the gift as bright and colorful as they can. Help them attach some ribbon as a bow on top of the gift.

**Say:** *We've been celebrating a very special person's birthday the last few weeks. Who's birthday are we celebrating? Jesus, that's right! Jesus is God's gift to us, the greatest gift of all! Today, we're going to make a craft to help us remember this special gift.*

## **CLEAN UP**

**(5 minutes)**

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## **LARGE GROUP**

**(15 minutes)**

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .*

### **WELCOME & PRAYER**

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

### **WORSHIP (5-7 minutes)**

Before starting the lesson, open Large Group time by singing a few familiar songs and using instruments

*Sing All the Christmas songs from Plex folder EC.*

### **BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)**

***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is the Best Gift of all.***

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton has a little tiny gift in his paws.***

**Say:** Hamilton, what do you have? Did you get a gift? A present? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Kids, did you get some presents this week? ***Allow them to talk about them briefly.*** Was it hard to wait for those very special gifts? I bet it took a LOT of patience! There were two people in the Bible who had to wait a very long time to see the most special gift of all, Jesus! Their names were Simeon and Anna. They were so excited when they finally got to meet baby Jesus! Show me your excited faces.

***Read the story of Simeon and Anna provided in the curriculum folder.***

**Say:** Jesus really is the best gift of all! Simeon and Anna knew exactly who Jesus was and what He would do for all of us! He came to save us because He loves us SO much. God gave Jesus to us. Jesus is the best gift.

***Pretend you have a baby. Rock the baby and say:***

Baby Jesus sweet and small, you are the very best gift of all!

**Say:** Thanks for helping us learn about this very special gift, Hamilton. Bye, Hamilton! ***Hamilton waves goodbye to class.***

**SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that Jesus is God's gift! *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: "Jesus is God's Gift!" (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).*

**WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

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.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** Let's tell God thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus, who is the best gift of all!  
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR GIVING US JESUS!

***Pray to close Large Group time out.***

## **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*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.*

**Let's remember our verse: "A child will be born to us." Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV. And who's that child? Jesus!**

***Friends, may you always remember that Jesus loves YOU!***

## **CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

### **PLAY: I-Spy**

***Supplies: none***

**Directions:** Have all the kids gather around and pick an object in the room that the kids must guess. Say, "I spy with my little eye something... (*color of object*)."  
Then, have kids guess yes or no questions to figure out what item it is you are spying. Have an LIT or kid pick the next item to spy.

## **CHECK-OUT**

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue playing with the classroom games and toys.*

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you're the very best gift of all



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