Lessons for the Leader

Who took you to church as a child? We can model Jesus' parents' example today.

- Read Luke 2:22-24. What had to be completed before Jesus was presented at the temple? What was to be sacrificed? Mary and Joseph set the example of taking the family to church. Do you prepare yourself and your family before going to church? Do irritations, spats, or struggles weigh heavily on your mind, heart, and soul? Where better to give those issues over to God than on the way to church?
- Read Luke 2:25-35. What did God promise Simeon he would see before he died? Guided by the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognized that this little baby was the Messiah he was waiting for. What did Simeon say about Jesus? God's salvation through Jesus is for all people. Luke stresses the worldwide scope of the gospel of Jesus. How do you respond to Jesus? How do you tell others about the importance of believing the gospel?
- Read Luke 2:36-38. A woman is highlighted in this Scripture. Luke emphasized the importance of women in his writings. What did Anna do daily and on this special day?
- Read Luke 2:39. Luke does not include some events that Matthew records, such as the visit of the wise men. Luke tells us the family returned to Nazareth after completing the requirements of the law, showing that Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Notice the family did all that was required by the law of God. Do you do what is required by God?
- Read Luke 2:40. Jesus grew and was blessed by God. Are you growing spiritually in your walk with Christ? Do you ask for wisdom in your decisions and talk? To teach properly, one needs wisdom. Seek God's wisdom as you teach preschoolers.

What do these symbols mean?

1 ➔ Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.
Introduction to Worship

1 ➔ Greet Children

Pull It Together
Offering container

- Show children where to place their offerings.

2 ➔ Draw and Walk

Pull It Together
Index cards, markers, tape

- Print car, van, truck, bus, train, walk, and other on separate cards.
- Tape the printed cards near the door at children’s eye level.

- Distribute index cards and markers.
- Instruct: “Draw a picture on the card of how you came to church today. Draw a picture of what you rode in or of you walking.”
- Invite each child to tape his card under the card on the wall that matches the way he traveled to church.
- Lead kids who complete their cards to walk around the room doing fun movements such as giant steps, baby steps, and hops.
- Comment: “We will learn Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple (church).”

Worship

3 ➔ Sing "My Mouth Wants to Sing" (DVD, 2 minutes)

4 ➔ Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 2 minutes)

5 ➔ Present Offering and Pray (2 minutes)

6 ➔ Learn the Bible Verse (4 minutes)

Pull It Together
Paper, marker, obstacle course items (chair, table, rope, large box, etc.)

- Print the words of Psalm 132:7 from your preferred translation on separate pieces of paper.
- Arrange an obstacle course.
- Place the words of the Bible verse along the course.

Teacher Tip
Print “Psalm 132:7 Paraphrase” (CD).

- Say: "Our Bible verse is Psalm 132:7."
- Say the verse, inviting kids to repeat after you.

7 ➔ Introduce the Bible Story (3 minutes)

Lyrics
Sing to the tune “London Bridge”:
I have waited oh, so long, oh, so long.
I have waited oh, so long to see the Baby Jesus.
I have waited oh, so long, oh, so long, oh, so long.
The Lord has kept His promise to send His Son, Jesus.

- Say: "Let’s learn a song about our Bible story."
- Lead kids to sing the song.
- Say: "Two people waited a long time to see Baby Jesus. Let’s learn about these two people."
- Open your Bible and tell the Bible story.

8 ➔ Tell the Bible Story (7 minutes)

Pull It Together
Shawl or afghan, heavyweight paper, scissors, crayons

- Wrap the shawl around your shoulders.
- Print “Dress-Up Items” (CD) on heavyweight paper and cut out. Print 1 piece of clothing per child.

Teacher Tips
- Provide individual dress-up clothes or accessories (1 piece per child) instead of using paper pieces. Choose clothes that are safe and symbolize dressing for church. Size 8–10 children’s clothing allows preschoolers to put it on over their own clothing. Costume jewelry, clip-on ties, suit coats, skirts, or frilly blouses are good choices. If using regular men’s ties, knot them so they can be slipped over the head but not tightened.
- Be sensitive to the culture of your church, where dressing up for church may not be the norm.

- Give each child a dress-up item and crayons.
- Invite kids to color their items.
- Enlist teachers to help secure ties and jewelry on the children.
- Explain: "This story is about Jesus’ parents taking Jesus to the temple. A temple and a church are both places to worship."

Simeon and Anna Met Jesus

Based on Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple. The couple also took two birds to give as an offering. Mary and Joseph gave their offering to thank God for His love and for the birth of Jesus.
When Mary and Joseph went in the temple, they met a man named Simeon (SIM ih uhn). Simeon was a good man who loved God. Simeon was waiting for God to send the Messiah. Messiah is another name for Jesus. Simeon knew the Messiah was special and would help people know God. Simeon also knew God had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took Him in his arms. He held Jesus and began to pray aloud. "Now, God," he said, "I can die happy. I have seen the One You sent to help people know You."

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said. Then Simeon told them how great Jesus would be and that He would do great things.

A woman named Anna was also at the temple. Anna was old and her husband had died many years before. Anna stayed at the temple all the time. She prayed night and day. When she saw Jesus, she thanked God and began telling others about Him.

When they were finished at the temple, Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to Nazareth. Jesus grew and became strong and wise. God was pleased with Jesus.

9 ➔ Review (4 minutes)
Pull It Together
Scissors
• Print "Names" (CD) and cut apart.
• Place the names in your Bible.

Review Questions
• Where did Mary and Joseph take Jesus? (temple)
• Whom did Mary and Joseph see at the temple? (Simeon and Anna)
• What did Simeon say about Jesus? (He would be great and do great things.)
• What did Anna do when she saw Jesus? (She thanked God and told others about Him.)

10 Sing a Song (4 minutes)
Pull It Together
Print "Good News Song" (CD).
• Say: "Let's sing the song we learned about Jesus' birth. We have two new verses to learn."
• Lead kids to sing the song, adding week 4 verses.

11 ➔ Use Worship Guides (7 minutes)
Pull It Together
Worship Guides, markers
• Distribute supplies.
• Assist boys and girls in completing the activities on the Worship Guides.

12 Make Application (4 minutes)
Pull It Together
Travel chart from step 2
• Print "Teaching Picture 4 Simeon and Anna" (CD).
• Display the teaching picture.
• Comment: "We learned Jesus' parents took him to the temple (church). Mary and Joseph probably walked to the temple. We come to church in many ways."
• Count the index cards, leading boys and girls to stand in groups representing the ways they came to church.
• Ask: "Who brought you to church today?"
• Invite responses.
• Say: "Jesus' family took Him to the temple. Our families, friends, and neighbors bring us to church."

13 Invite Guests (4 minutes)
Pull It Together
Invite 2–3 parents to tell about taking their children to church for the first time.
• Say: "We learned what happened when Jesus' family took Him to the temple the first time. Let's hear what happened when some of your parents brought you to church the first time."
• Listen to guests.

14 ➔ Sing "Sing a Song of Jesus" (DVD, 2 minutes)
15 ➔ Go to Application Activities or Wrap-Up
16 Sing "Jesus Is the Song" (DVD, 2 minutes)

17 Pray (2 minutes)

Teacher Tips
- Do not require any child to pray if he is uncomfortable praying.
- Invite a few children to pray instead of the entire group.
- Lead kids to say the Bible verse (Psalm 132:7).
- Say: "Our families, friends, and neighbors bring us to church to worship. Let's pray for the people who bring us to church. I'll pray first. Then [say child's name] will pray. We'll go around the group. Everyone thank God for whoever brings you to church."
- Pray, prompting the next child to pray when necessary.
- Enlist another adult to close the prayer.

18 Play Freeze Frame (6 minutes)

Pull It Together
"Teaching Picture 4 Simeon and Anna" from step 12, scissors
- Print "Freeze Frame Scenes" (CD) and cut apart.

Teacher Tip
Allow each group to pose a different scene (text in bold).
- Display the teaching picture.
- Say: "We'll play a game called 'Freeze Frame.' A frame holds a picture. We will work together to pose scenes from the Bible story."
- Place kids in four groups.
- Assign four adults to lead groups.
- Give each adult a copy of the scenes.
- Explain: "I'll read something that happened in the story. Each group pose yourselves like the people I read about. All groups will freeze when I say 'freeze frame.'"
- Read scenes, allowing time and assisting kids to pose.
- Congratulate children on their cooperation and continue with another scene.

19 Dismiss Children to Their Parents
Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

Pull It Together
Clear contact plastic, tissue paper (various colors), hole punch, yarn, scissors

- Print "Stained Glass Windows" (CD). Print copies of page 2 as needed and cut apart.
- Cut the contact plastic into various window shapes (rectangle, round, arched, etc.). Provide 2 matching shapes for each child.
- Cut a 6-inch length of yarn for each child.

Teacher Tips
- Recognize that some children may not be brought to church by family members.
- Turn under a small corner of the backing on each piece of contact plastic.

Worship Through Arts and Crafts

Make Stained Glass Windows

- Ask: "Who brought you to church today? [Pause for responses.] When Jesus was a baby His family took Him to the temple. A temple and church are both places to worship. I'm glad God gives us families (and friends) who bring us to church. At some churches, the windows are made with different colors of glass, called stained glass [display p. 1 pictures]. Let's make stained glass windows to help us remember Jesus' family took Him to the temple."
- Distribute the contact paper shapes.
- Instruct: "Pull off the paper back on one window shape. We'll help if needed. Place the shape sticky side up on the table. Tear or cut the tissue paper into pieces and stick them to your shape."
- Assist kids as needed.
- Encourage children to stick the Bible verse on the shape.
- Lead kids to say the Bible verse (Psalm 132:7).
- Help kids cover the tissue paper with the matching contact paper shapes.
- Show each child how to punch a hole in the top of the shape and tie a yarn through the hole to make a hanger.
- Lead kids to clean the area.
- Encourage the boys and girls to take their windows home as reminders that Jesus' family took Him to the temple when He was a baby.
- Pray.

Worship Through Dramatic Play

Play Out Going to the Temple

- Remark: "I am so glad that someone brought you to church today. When Jesus was a baby, His parents took Him to the temple. Two people at the temple named Simeon and Anna were very happy to see Jesus. Let's play out being Jesus' parents taking Him to the temple. We'll need some kids to build a temple, two to be Mary and Joseph, and two to be Simeon and Anna."
- Allow kids to choose their roles and prepare to go to the temple.
- Talk about the story as kids build the temple and dress up.
- Narrate the story as kids walk to the temple.
- Encourage "Simeon" and "Anna" to praise God and tell about the baby.
- Invite kids to switch roles and go to the temple again.
- Lead kids to say the Bible verse (Psalm 132:7).
- Guide children in cleaning the area.
- Conclude: "Jesus' parents took Him to the temple. Our parents, family members, and friends bring us to church."
- Pray.

Teacher Tip
Looking for additional resources to enhance your teaching? Check out the Levels of Biblical Learning resources available at www.lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicallearning

Week of December 23, 2012
Pull It Together
Toy vehicles, Giant Game Floor Mat*, construction paper (4 colors)
• Print "Church" (CD).
• Insert "Church" picture into corner pocket.
• Insert different colors of paper to make paths to get to the church.

Worship Through Games

Follow the Maze to Church
• Ask: "How did you get to church today? [Pause for responses.] I am glad someone brought you to church. When Jesus was a baby, His parents took Him to the temple. We'll take turns following the colors on the maze to get to the church. Not all roads will lead to the church."
• Instruct four children to choose toy vehicles to drive on the maze.
• Say: "Pick a color and put your vehicle on the color. Drive your vehicle across the color you chose toward the church. Stay on your color."
• Allow kids to drive their vehicles across the colors.
• Choose next set of kids to play, allowing all kids to play before changing.
• Change the mat setup.
• Sing the song [see sidebar] as you change the color paths in the mat.
• Show the children how to roll their toy vehicles back and forth to the beat of the song while singing.
• Invite kids to find their ways to the church again.
• Play as time permits, inviting kids to change the mat set up.
• Collect vehicles.
• Conclude: "Jesus' parents took Him to the temple (church)."
• Lead kids to say the Bible verse (Psalm 132:7).
• Pray.

Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

Learn About the Temple
• Say: "Jesus' family took Him to the temple. We can make temples with blocks. First we'll make stand-up figures we can use to play out the family going to the temple and seeing Simeon and Anna."
• Distribute figures and markers.
• Assist kids with folding and taping their figures.
• Display the temple block design.
• Invite kids to build temples and play with their figures.
• Talk about the Bible story as children play.
• Gather blocks.
• Conclude: "Simeon and Anna were happy to see Baby Jesus. Jesus' family took Him to the temple."
• Lead children to say the Bible verse (Psalm 132:7).
• Pray, thanking God for the people who brought the children to church.

Color Path Suggestion
Row 1: purple, blue, blue, red, red
Row 2: blue, purple, red, blue, red
Row 3: green, green, purple, purple, blue
Row 4: red, green, green, green, church

Lyrics
Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush":
This is the way we go to church, go to church, go to church.
This is the way we go church to worship with our friends.
I came to worship in a *van, in a van, in a van.
I came to worship in a van, so tell us how you came.
*Substitute other words such as car, truck, or bus.

Pull It Together
Building blocks (LEGO® bricks, cardboard blocks, etc.), scissors, tape
• Print "Temple" (CD).
  Print 1 copy of page 2 for each child and cut apart.
Let us go to church and worship.

Psalm 132:7
Good News, Good News
Have you heard? [Cup hands behind ears.]
A child will be born in Bethlehem. [Pretend to rock a baby in your arms.]

Good News, Good News
*Have you heard? [Cup hands behind ears.]
**God told people to tell the Good News.

Good News, Good News
Have you heard? [Cup hands behind ears.]
A child will be born in Bethlehem. [Pretend to rock a baby in your arms.]

New Verses
Week 2
**Mary will be a part of God’s plan.

**Joseph will be a part of God’s plan.

Week 3
[4] *Jesus was born.
**Thank You, God, for sending Your Son.

Week 4
[5] *Simeon saw
**The Baby Jesus just as God said.

[6] *Anna thanked God
**And told everyone about the child.

Week 5
**To worship the new king and give gifts.

Good News, Good News
Have you heard? [Cup hands behind ears.]
A child will be born in Bethlehem. [Pretend to rock a baby in your arms.]

Good News, Good News
*Have you heard? [Cup hands behind ears.]
**God told people to tell the Good News.

Good News, Good News
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Week 5
**To worship the new king and give gifts.
To assemble the paper people:

1. Cut out each strip. Fold the name under along the solid line.
2. Tape the folded flap.
3. Fold the picture in toward the solid line.
4. Stand up the paper person.
5. To display the name of the person, tip him over.

Mary and Joseph

Baby Jesus

Simeon

Anna
Psalm 132:7
Joseph

Simeon
1. Simeon waited for the birth of God's Son. Anna stayed in the temple and prayed. Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem with Jesus.

2. Mary and Joseph walked into the temple with Jesus to present an offering. Simeon came to meet them and took Jesus in his arms. Anna was at the temple praying.

3. Anna told people about seeing Jesus and His family. Mary, Joseph, and Simeon worshiped at the temple.

4. Simeon and Anna thanked God for seeing Jesus and His family. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus went to Nazareth.
Bracelets

- Cut along the dotted lines. Invite kids to simply slip on bracelets.
- Cut along each jewel. Cut the 2 dotted lines in the squares.
- Slide the slits in the squares into each other to clasp closed.