

Volume 8 Adult/Kids Connections (SUM 2014)

Unit 24, Session 2: Jesus Was Dedicated *Luke 2:21-40*

Christ Connection:

Preschool: God had promised His people that a Savior was coming. When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, they knew He was the Savior. Jesus came to save people from sin. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sin, and like Simeon and Anna, we should tell others the good news.

Kids: Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a king who would redeem God's people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God's Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

Adult Connection Point: In the Eighth Commandment, God forbids stealing—taking something that does not belong to us. This command covers a wide range of dishonest practices birthed in a heart gripped by possessions instead of the One from whom all good things come. And it is because of our greedy and selfish hearts that Jesus came to earth and lived a completely selfless life on our behalf, generously offering Himself as an atonement for our thieving selves (see 2 Cor. 8:9). As Simeon and Anna were able to live selfless (but not perfect) lives in anticipation of Jesus' coming, we who live after Jesus gave His life selflessly and sacrificially for us should find reason to live less selfishly.

When we follow Jesus, we are gradually transformed from selfish to generous. We become less concerned with material wealth and more concerned with treasures in heaven. Our mindset on wealth changes from hoarding possessions for our own desires to using possessions as a tool to advance the kingdom of God. Whether we are giving to our local church or supporting righteous causes or helping the poor, our money can serve as a great example of how the gospel has changed us. Because of Christ, we are set free from our slavery to things and are given new, generous hearts that aid us in our mission. We are all guilty of taking things that do not belong to us, but because we have found in Christ forgiveness for theft and freedom from greed, we should be excited to tell others how they too can be forgiven and freed through the gospel.

Family Devotion:

Ask your family the question: "What is something you have been waiting for a long time?" Allow family members time to think or prompt them with ideas if they are stuck.

Recall the Bible story including each of the people and their role at Jesus' dedication. Mary and Joseph went to the temple to dedicate Jesus, their firstborn, to the Lord. This was part of God's law, and they wanted to obey Him. Simeon

had been promised by God that he would not die until he saw Jesus. As soon as Anna saw Jesus she thanked God for keeping His promise and began to speak to others about Him.

Comment that God not only confirmed again to Mary and Joseph that indeed their son was God's Son, but also to Simeon and Anna. They had now seen with their own eyes the One who would save the people from their sins—Jesus!

Ask: "What were some other things Simeon or Anna mentioned about Jesus?" Recall how Simeon shared with Mary that being Jesus' mother would be good but hard. He said some people would love Him but others would not. Things were going to happen that would make Mary very sad. Both Simeon and Anna identified Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Pray, thanking God, for keeping His promise to send someone to save us from our sins. Ask God to help each of your family members trust Jesus for their salvation.