

YEAR A | QUARTER 4

12

Dedicated

Worship
We praise God for His greatest gift.

POWER TEXT

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:21-40
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 5, pp. 50-58
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 43-46
- Student lesson on page 132 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 4, The Son
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that abiding in the presence of Jesus leads them to worship Him.
- **Feel** the presence of Jesus in their lives.
- **Respond** by acknowledging Jesus' presence with praise and thanksgiving.

POWERPOINT

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When Jesus is dedicated at the Temple, Mary and Joseph thank God for their Son. Simeon and Anna worship God for allowing them to witness the fulfillment of prophecy in their lifetime.

This is a lesson about worship.

We too are led to worship when we recognize that Jesus is still with us today. His presence, through the Holy Spirit, inhabits our lives and our places of worship, and continues to inspire praise.

Teacher Enrichment

"The law for the presentation of the first-born was made particularly significant. While it was a memorial of the Lord's wonderful deliverance of the children of Israel, it prefigured a greater deliverance, to be wrought out by the only-begotten Son of God" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 51).

"In the temple the Son of God was dedicated to the work He had come to do. The priest looked upon Him as he would upon any other child. But though he neither saw nor felt anything unusual, God's act in giving His Son to the world was acknowledged. This occasion did not pass without some recognition of Christ. . . .

". . . Simeon understands the warnings of the Spirit, and he is deeply impressed that the infant being presented to the Lord is the Consolation of Israel, the One he has longed to see" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 55).

In what ways does Jesus inhabit my life? How can I encourage Him to be present more in my life? When has the Lord delivered me from a difficult circumstance?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Seek and Worship*	method for marking, clock, eraser, paper clip or safety pin, outline of hands, group pictures, musical instruments or cutout of a musical note, book(s), cutout of question mark
		B. Historic Event	poster paper, markers
		C. Praise for His Presence	Baby Jesus, special music (optional: other Nativity scene figures)
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 127. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks; world map; pushpins; gift box with slit; prayer chain
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 150)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, chalk/whiteboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Celebration Time**	fruit salad or other healthy snacks
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Share His Presence*	classroom Nativity scene, heavy paper or poster board, scissors, markers, white cloth, tiny dolls or modeling clay, pattern and instructions (p. 151)
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ method of marking
- ☐ clock
- ☐ eraser
- ☐ paper clip OR safety pin
- ☐ outline of hands
- ☐ group pictures
- ☐ musical instruments OR cutout of a musical note
- ☐ book(s)
- ☐ cutout of question mark

Seek and Worship

Mark in some manner (marker, adhesive dots, stickers) the following items or any others you can think of with significance: clock, eraser, paper clip or safety pin, outline drawing of hands, group pictures, musical instrument or cutout of a musical note.

Tell the students that they are to go around the room and find simple, everyday items that you have marked as special. Tell them the mark you have used. When students have found all the items you have marked, have them bring them back to their seats.

Debriefing

Ask: **What part of your everyday life do these items remind you of? How can we worship God in the areas of our life represented by these everyday items?** Encourage answers based on the following ideas: clock—time; eraser—a way to erase the past, clean up, start over; paper clip—a way to hang on to things that are really important to us; outline drawing of hands—ability to serve; pictures of groups—be part of a community of Christians. **In what other ways could you represent worship?** Say: **Jesus wasn't recognized as being any different from any other baby when He was brought to the Temple to be dedicated. Recognizing Jesus in unexpected ways and places is important to our worship. The simple things of life can give us opportunities to worship Him if we are alert to them. Let's say our power text, Luke 2:30-32:**

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

Our power point reminds us that

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ poster paper
- ☐ markers

Historic Event

Divide students into groups of three to five. Give each group a sheet of poster paper and markers. Ask each group to decide on a recent event that seems historical to them (one that will be remembered for a long time), and to each draw on one portion of their sheet of poster paper how they felt when they saw "history in the making." When they are finished, their poster paper should be a montage of their separate reactions to the event.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would it be like to be part of history in the making?** Say: **Our lesson today is about two people who recognized that they were seeing prophecies fulfilled. When they recognized that Jesus had been born, they praised God. Let's say our power text, Luke 2:30-32:**

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

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Prayer & Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Baby Jesus and optional items
- ☐ special music

Praise for His Presence

If you have been adding to the Nativity scene begun in Lesson 10, complete the scene today with whatever figures or items you care to add, ending with Baby Jesus. Arrange to have a special music presentation while you have someone place Baby Jesus in the scene. Say: **Let's say our power text, Luke 2:30-32:**

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

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Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

Choose songs appropriate to the lesson.

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story in comparison with where they live. They could use pushpins to mark the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ gift box

Say: **When we experience the presence of God's Son in our lives, we give cheerfully back to God.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ prayer chain

Review the prayer chain you have done for the quarter—talk about how the prayers have been answered. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 150)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make three copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 150 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit.

Debriefing

Say: **Our lesson today is about Jesus' dedication. Although to some, He was just another baby. For two who were watching for Him, His presence brought them a special reason to praise and worship God. We are reminded in our power point that**

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Ask student volunteers to read Luke 2:21-38. Then ask the following questions:

Why was it important for the family of the Son of God to follow the law of Moses? (So there would be no dispute about His Jewish heritage and respect for tradition when He got older; as our Savior He chose to do what He expected His followers to do [for example, getting baptized although He had never sinned].)

Why do you think the priest who dedicated Jesus is not mentioned? (He performed the dedication as a routine. He didn't recognize the Baby as divine.)

How did Simeon know that the Child was the Messiah? (The Holy Spirit told him.)

What do you think Joseph and Mary thought and felt when Simeon prophesied? (They were probably in awe. They were happy for the confirmation of the angel's prophecy. Joseph might have felt a little pride about a son who had caused and would cause the rising and falling of nations. Mary probably felt frightened and sad thinking about the pain both she and Jesus would have to endure.)

How do you think you would have felt?

Who were the people who were "looking forward to the redemption of Israel"? (other worshippers, perhaps other priests and Temple servants)

Which of the four adults in the story (the dedicatory priest is not mentioned) **do you most identify with? Why?**

Say: **As our power point reminds us,**

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ chalk/whiteboard
- ☐ chalk OR markers

Say: **Luke 2:36 calls Anna a prophet.**

Ask: **Who were other women prophets in the Bible?**

Write the following verses (only) on the board: Exodus 15:20 (Miriam); Judges 4:4 (Deborah); 2 Kings 22:14 (Huldah); Acts 21:9 (daughters of Philip).

Say: **Let's find these verses and together list the women prophets.** Appoint a scribe to list the answers on the board.

Say: **Let's say our power text, Luke 2:30-32:**

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

Our power point reminds us that

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

Celebration Time

YOU NEED:
- ☐ fruit salad
- ☐ or other healthy snacks

NOTE to teachers:
For this activity, inquire in advance if any of the students has food allergies. Bring only food items that all students could have without developing an allergic reaction to them.

Give your students each a cup of fruit salad (or other healthy snacks). Tell them not to eat the contents of the cup until you tell them to do so.

Tell them that your celebration today is in honor of Jesus' dedication as the Savior of the world, and His presence in each of our lives. Sing a praise song together (such as "Come Into His Presence," *He Is Our Song*, no. 2), praising God for His presence in the world many years ago, and His presence in our lives today. Then let students eat their fruit salad. (Provide sandwich bags for those who choose not to eat between meals and prefer to save their fruit salad for later.)

Say: **We are reminded in our power point that**

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ classroom Nativity scene
- ☐ heavy paper OR poster board
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ markers
- ☐ white cloth
- ☐ tiny dolls OR modeling clay
- ☐ pattern and instructions (p. 151)

Share His Presence

Follow up with the students on the plans you made a week ago to participate in some kind of service project (i.e., participating in a food drive; serving food at a soup kitchen for a homeless shelter; playing music in a nursing home). Ask: **What did you prepare to contribute for our service project?** (Whatever the case may be: if they are to participate in a food drive, ask if they have brought food items; if they prepared to play music for elderly, ask what pieces they rehearsed.)

If you have completed creating a Nativity scene during the past four Sabbaths, arrange ahead of time for your students to go to a younger children's class and bring them to your room to look at your Nativity scene.

Before you go to get the younger children, you could have your students make small replicas of Baby Jesus in a manger for your guests. Use the pattern on page 151.

OPTION: Prepare and practice a short program to share at a nursing home or hospital this afternoon. Select songs, poems, Bible readings, etc. Assign parts. Make arrangements regarding transportation. Say: **Let's say our power point once again and remember that**

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Just as Jesus' parents dedicated Him at the Temple, we can dedicate ourselves to Him each time we worship. This week, as you continue celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour at home, remember our power point:**

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **The Magi come to worship Jesus. We worship God when we give our praise, offerings, and lives to Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

Dedicated

Have you ever watched history happen before your eyes? How did you feel? How did it change your life? Imagine this history-making event.

At the appointed time according to the law, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him to the Lord. The dedication of the firstborn son was a reminder of God's promise to send His only Son into our world as our Redeemer.

The animal sacrifices offered during the child-dedication ceremony also had symbolic meaning, pointing to the sacrifice of the promised Messiah.

Wealthy families would offer a lamb for this special sacrifice. The poor who could not afford to buy a lamb would offer two turtledoves (a type of pigeon).

As part of the dedication service, the priest would lift a firstborn child to the altar and would consecrate him to the Lord. After handing the baby back to the mother, the priest would record his name in the official records.

When Mary and Joseph placed the baby in the priest's arms, he performed the dedication ceremony in the same routine manner as usual. Then he recorded the baby's name, "Jesus," in the register. What a privilege was given to that priest to hold the Savior of the world in his arms! Yet he did not recognize in this infant the promised Redeemer. The humble origins of this child did not correspond to the priest's understanding of the Messiah's mission. The popular belief of that time was that the Messiah would one day free the nation from the Roman oppression and restore to Israel David's royal kingdom. So the priest failed to see that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the symbols, rituals, and messianic prophecies.

There were, however, a few sincere worshippers who had studied the prophecies with a desire to understand God's truth. Simeon and Anna longed to see the promised Redeemer. With renewed hope they looked forward in faith to the coming of the Messiah.

As the priest finished officiating the dedication, old Simeon shuffled forward. Moving toward the mother, Simeon held out his arms and asked to see the child.

The priest and the couple watched Simeon intently.

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

Simeon announced the mission of Jesus to bring the light of God's love even to the Gentiles.

Then, turning to Mary, he said, "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" (verses 34, 35).

Through these words Simeon revealed Jesus' sacrificial life and death to accomplish our salvation.

Just as Simeon finished speaking, Anna, a faithful woman who was advanced in age, moved toward the little group. This was a woman who regularly worshipped at the Temple. On hearing Simeon's words, Anna rejoiced and praised God for the Promised One. Simeon and Anna had studied the Scriptures prayerfully and believed in the fulfillment of the prophecies. According to their faith, God revealed to them the Messiah in whom the prophecies would be fulfilled. As it is written: "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:11, 12).

In Old Testament times God had chosen the people of Israel to share His truth with the surrounding nations. However, when the Messiah came, only a small group of humble believers were prepared to welcome Him.

In every age God has had His faithful children who carried the light of God's love to the world. Today God's church consists of those believers who accept Jesus as their personal Savior and choose to make Him known to others. The church is God's family on earth. Jesus has appointed each of us to be His ambassadors: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Let's invite Jesus into our lives and share with everyone the good news of His soon return!

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:21-40
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 5, pp. 50-58
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 43-46
- Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 4, 22

POWER TEXT

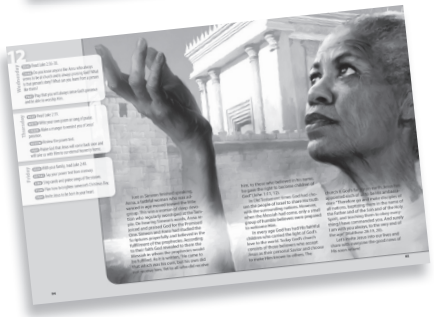
"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

POWER POINT

When Jesus lives in our hearts, we are inspired to worship Him.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 89.

Sunday

READ Read Luke 2:21 and this week's lesson, "Dedicated."

LEARN Draw a pair of sunglasses. Write on them the power text. Begin to learn it.

PRAY Pray that you will look for Jesus' second coming as Simeon and Anna looked for His first coming.

Monday

READ Read Luke 2:22-24.

ASK Ask an adult if you were dedicated as a child. If so, ask if there is a certificate, photos, or gifts you received.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Rededicate yourself to God. Ask for His presence in your life.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 2:25-35.

THINK For what gift did you have to wait a long time? What did you do while waiting? How did you feel when you finally received it?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for always sending what He promises. Praise Him for teaching you to wait patiently for His gifts.

Wednesday

READ Read Luke 2:36-38.

THINK Do you know anyone like Anna who always seems to be at church and is always praising God? What is that person's story? What can you learn from a person like that?

PRAY Pray that you will always sense God's presence and be able to worship Him.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 2:39.

WRITE Write your own poem or song of praise.

CREATE Make a manger to remind you of Jesus' presence.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God that Jesus will come back soon and will take us with Him to our eternal heavenly home.

Friday

READ With your family, read Luke 2:40.

REPEAT Say your power text from memory.

SING Sing carols and praise songs of the season.

PLAN Plan how to brighten someone's Christmas Day.

PRAY Invite Jesus to be born in your heart.