

Family Lesson 50

Principle: Recognizing Jesus and worshipping him.

Bible Character(s): Jesus, Simeon, Anna, the magi, and King Herod

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:22-40,
Matthew 2:1-12

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Last week, we talked about the birth of Jesus. When Jesus is around a month old, Mary and Joseph take him to the temple as required by the Old Testament law. They take him to the temple to “present him to the Lord” and offer a sacrifice for him.

Let’s read the Bible in Luke 2 to see who else is at the temple that day.

Luke 2:25-26

²⁵ At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

What do we know about who Simeon is? He is righteous and devout. This means he spends his life studying the Bible, praying, and serving God. He desires to live for and to please God. We are also told that the Holy Spirit is upon him,

or he is filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has revealed to him that he will not die until he has seen Jesus. Can you remember from Big Group what happened when Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the temple where Simeon is? (Simeon knows that their baby is Jesus; he holds Jesus in his arms.)

Let’s read the Bible to learn more about this in Luke.

Luke 2:27-32

²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required,

²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

³⁰ I have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Simeon believes and trusts God during his life. He studies the scriptures and prays. He knows that God has promised to send a Savior. He is already worshipping God every day, and he knows what God is like. Even though Jesus looks like an ordinary baby, Simeon knows that Jesus is the Savior because he has spent his life worshipping God. When Simeon recognizes Jesus, he immediately begins praising and worshipping God for fulfilling his promise.

There is someone else who also recognizes baby Jesus that day. Let’s read more in Luke 2 to find out.

Luke 2:36-38

³⁶ Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been

married only seven years.³⁷ Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshipping God with fasting and prayer.³⁸ She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

What did you read about Anna? (Allow responses.) Anna and Simeon are very similar. Anna also believes and trusts in God. She spends her life serving God in the temple. She fasts, prays, and worships God every day. Even though Jesus looks like an ordinary baby, both Anna and Simeon recognize him as God's Son because they know God; they have believed, trusted, and served God their whole lives. Both Anna and Simeon respond with praise and worship when they see Jesus.

There is another group of people who recognize Jesus as a baby. We can read about this in Matthew 2.

Matthew 2:1-2

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

The wise men did not come the night Jesus was born. They come when Jesus is one or two years old. The wise men (or magi) are astrologers, or people who study the stars. They recognize that a king has been born because of the star God has placed in the sky.

When King Herod hears about Jesus, his first response is that he does not want another king to be born. He does not want another king to take over his kingdom. Let's read the Bible to see what else he does in response to hearing about Jesus.

Matthew 2:7-8

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

Do you think King Herod really wants to worship Jesus? (Allow responses.) Herod recognizes that Jesus might really be a king, but he does not respond like Simeon and Anna do. Herod does not worship Jesus because Herod has never believed, trusted, or served God. Let's continue to read the Bible in Matthew.

Matthew 2:9-12

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

What do the wise men do when they find Jesus? (Allow responses.) They worship him! They recognize that they are in the presence of royalty. They know this little baby, Jesus, is God. They give him very expensive gifts, the best gifts they have, as an act of worship. They know that King Herod does not really want to worship Jesus, and so they do not go back to tell him about where Jesus is.

King Herod's response is very different from the wise men's response. Herod does not trust God. He cares more about himself and being king. When he hears about Jesus, he chooses not to worship him. The wise men believe that Jesus is the King, and they worship him. They give

him the best of what they have. They choose to worship Jesus. We have a choice of how to respond to Jesus, just as King Herod and the wise men had the choice.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for his love and mercy, even though we do not deserve it.

Activity

Who Am I?

The purpose is to see if we are in a place to recognize Jesus and what our response is to Jesus.

Supplies:

Situation cards found on the [Kids Resource Page](#)

Read through the situation cards. Have your child tell how they would respond to each situation. Refer to the verses to show them how we can respond in worship of Jesus in each situation, and what the correct response would be so that we worship Jesus.

Tie It Together

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what we want that we act like Herod and choose not to worship God. We live as if everything is about us instead of it being about God. We miss seeing Jesus because we are too focused on ourselves. For example, when your little brother or sister takes your favorite toy, you might get very mad at him or her. You do not want them playing with your toy. You have a chance to follow Jesus and worship him in this situation. Jesus would have been kind and shared what he had so that others could enjoy it. You can choose to be like Jesus by being kind to your brother or sister and letting him or her play with that toy. This is a form of worship. When we do what we know Jesus wants us to do, we are worshiping him. What are some other ways to worship Jesus? (Allow responses.) You can choose to spend time with God by reading your Bible and praying, or you can give the best of what you have to the church or to someone who needs things more than you do just as the wise men did. You have a choice to worship God every day. God wants you to follow and worship him every day.

