



LESSON 50

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Recognizing Jesus and worshiping Him.

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

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



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Luke 2 and Matthew 2. As you

read, think through the significance of Mary and Joseph following the Law and sacrificing two pigeons to redeem Jesus. Jesus not only followed the Law (even as a baby), He also fulfilled the Law. As you look at what characterizes the lives of the Magi, Simeon, Anna, and King Herod, think about what characterizes your life. Do you regularly move from recognizing Jesus to worshiping Him? Compare and contrast King Herod's response to Jesus with Simeon and Anna's responses to Jesus. We are so often wrapped up in ourselves and our own "kingdoms" that we fail to recognize Jesus for who He really is, just as Herod did. Are you filled with joy each day because of Jesus' death and resurrection, or are you too wrapped up in your "kingdom" to take the time to recognize and worship Jesus for who He is?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

How Do You Worship Jesus?

Have the campers draw ways in which they worship Jesus. Spend a few minutes talking and allowing the campers to share what they came up with.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue our study about Jesus. We will look at what characterizes the lives of Simeon, Anna, the magi, and King Herod. We will see how they recognize Jesus and we'll see that when they recognize Him, they worship Him. We will also look at what characterizes our lives, if we recognize Jesus, and what our response to Jesus is.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened to the staff member without a treasure map? (He didn't recognize the treasure.) What did you learn about worshiping God?

Last week, whose birth did we study? (We studied about the birth of Jesus.) How was Jesus' life ordinary? (Jesus experienced life in an ordinary way like each of us because He was born as a baby and grew up in the same way that each of us grew up.) How was His life extraordinary? (Although He was fully human, He was also fully God, and was sent to earth to save us from our sins.) When should we worship Jesus? (We should worship Jesus every day.)

Today we are going to read about some people who recognized Jesus when He was just a baby. We will see what they did when they recognized Him, and how we can learn from them.

Temple Trip



The purpose is to establish why Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple.

Supplies:

Picture of temple (1 per bin)

Show your campers the picture of what the temple might have looked as you read through Luke 2:25-26.

Tie It Together



Last week we talked about the birth of Jesus. When Jesus was around a month old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple as required by the Old Testament law. They took 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 was 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.

Who is Simeon?



The purpose is to see who Simeon is and what his response is to baby Jesus.

Supplies:

Worksheet – Simeon side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the Simeon side of the worksheet and explain that they will circle the characteristics that apply to Simeon's life (righteous; devout; waiting for the Messiah; filled with the Holy Spirit; spent his life studying the Bible, praying and serving God) and then draw a line from each of those characteristics to Simeon's name.

Tie It Together



What do we know about who Simeon is? He was righteous and devout. This means he spent his life studying the Bible, praying, and serving God. He desired to live for and to please God. We are also told that the Holy Spirit was upon him, or he was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen Jesus. Can you remember from Big Group what happened when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple where Simeon was? (Simeon knew that their baby was Jesus; he held 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 has believed and trusted God during His life. He has studied the scriptures and prayed. He knew that God had promised to send a Savior. He was already worshiping God every day. Because of this, he knew that Jesus was that Savior; he recognized Him because he had spent his life worshiping God, even though Jesus looked like an ordinary baby. When he recognized Jesus, he immediately began praising and worshiping God for fulfilling His promise.

There was someone else who also recognized baby Jesus that day. Can you remember who it was

from Big Group?

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, worshiping 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.

Who is Anna?



The purpose is to see who Anna is and what her response is to baby Jesus.

Supplies:

Worksheet – Anna side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the Anna side of their worksheet from earlier. Ask them to circle the characteristics that apply to Anna's life (spent her life in the Temple; worshiped God everyday with fasting and prayer) and then draw a line from each of those characteristics to Anna's name.

Tie It Together



What did you read about Anna? (Allow responses.) Anna and Simeon are very similar. Anna also believed and trusted in God. She spent her life serving God in the temple. She fasted, prayed, and worshiped God every day. Even though Jesus looked like an ordinary baby, both Anna and Simeon recognized Him as God's Son, because they knew God; they had believed, trusted, and served God their whole lives. Both Anna and Simeon responded with praise and worship when they saw Jesus.

There was another group of people who recognized Jesus as a baby. We can read about this in Matthew 2 [NLT].

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 came when Jesus was one or two years old. The wise men (or magi) were astrologers, or people who studied the stars. They recognized that a king had been born by the star God had placed in the sky.

When King Herod heard about Jesus, his first response was that he did not want another king to be born. He did not want another king to take over his kingdom. Let's read the Bible to see what else he did 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 wanted to worship Jesus? (Allow responses.) Herod recognized that Jesus might really be a king, but he did not respond like Simeon and Anna did. Herod did not worship Jesus because Herod had 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 did the wise men do when they found Jesus? (Allow responses.) They worshiped Him! They recognized that they were in the presence of royalty. They knew this little baby, Jesus, was God. They gave Him very expensive gifts, the best gifts they had, as an act of worship. They knew that King Herod did not really want to worship Jesus, and so they did not go back to tell him about where Jesus was.

King Herod's response was very different than the wise men's response. Herod did not trust God. He cared more about himself and being king. When he heard about Jesus, he chose not to worship Him. The wise men believed that Jesus is the King and they worshiped Him. They gave Him the best of what they had. They chose to worship Jesus. We have a choice of how to respond to Jesus, just as King Herod and the wise men had the choice. Let's take a closer look at this choice we have.

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 with verses (1 set per bin)

Read through the situation cards. Have the campers 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 by 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.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help us know Him better so that we can follow Him in every situation we face each day.



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