

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: Jesus' Dedication and Childhood

Learning Goals: Students should understand that we only possess minimal information regarding Jesus' childhood. However, this information demonstrates that Jesus was a faithful Jew and that his life would fulfill Jewish prophecy.

Question: What do you think Jesus was like as a child?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Review the distinctive featured of Luke's gospel. (*important ones for today's passage: emphasis on individuals, focus on the temple, explanation of ritual*)

What kind of rituals do we do in our culture for babies/children?

Baby Showers

Dads pass out cigars

send out birth announcement

baby dedication / baptism / christening

Read Luke 2:21-40

1. When was the baby circumcised?
2. What is the significance of this event?
3. What was the baby named? What does this name mean?
4. Why did Mary and Joseph take their baby to temple?
5. What Old Testament command is fulfilled by this action?
6. What did Mary and Joseph offer as a sacrifice?
7. Who was the man that Mary and Joseph met in the temple? How does Luke describe this man?
8. How does Simeon describe Jesus in his prayer/blessing to God?
9. How does Simeon describe Jesus in his comments to Mary?
10. Who was the prophetess that Mary and Joseph meet in the temple?
11. Which feature of Luke's Gospel do we see modeled in the presence of this prophetess? (see 7.1.10)
12. What are the three Jewish rituals that we see in this passage?

Read Luke 2:41-52

13. Why did Jesus and his family go to the temple on this occasion? How often did they do this?
14. How old was Jesus when this event took place? (*Some have suggested that this may have been connected to his Bar Mitzvah. What does that term mean?*)
15. How long was Jesus "missing"? Where did Mary and Joseph find him? What was he doing?
16. How did Jesus explain why he was there? What does this response say about Jesus' identity?
17. How did he respond to his parents?
18. What four ways did Jesus grow according to verse 52? What is significant about these?

**Note: This is the last story we get of Joseph in the gospels. Some believe that he probably died between this event and Jesus' baptism.*

Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Simeon
- Anna
- What 4 ways did Jesus grow in Luke 2:52?