

## 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

Good illustration of temple in ESV Study Bible

### 3 Different Rituals

Obedying/fulfilling the Jewish law (notice Luke explaining the Jewish ritual)

1. Circumcision
  - Notice in Luke's gospel, Jesus does not receive his name until he is 8 days old
  - "Jesus" from Jeshua (Joshua); Name means "the Lord is salvation"
  - Why did he wait until he was eight days old (command of God - model of Isaac)
  - circumcision was the sign of the covenant with Abraham
2. Mary's Purification
  - "When it came time for their purification *according to the Law of Moses...*"
  - Go "up" to the temple - Jerusalem on a mountain (you always go "up" to Jerusalem)
  - Temple is an important theme in Luke's Gospel (begins and ends in temple)
  - Mary is unclean following childbirth - must go to temple (Leviticus 12:3-4)
3. Dedication of Jesus
  - They bring him to the temple to be dedicated; Exodus reference again (redeeming the first born - from Passover)
  - "the parents brought the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law..." (Luke is explaining Jewish customs again)

### 2 Prophetic Meetings

1. Simeon
  - The Holy Spirit was upon him (important theme for Luke)

- Prophetic word - he had been waiting for the Messiah; Spirit had told him he would not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ (Christ - Greek = Messiah - Hebrew)
- "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" - no surprise here (remember, Luke is a Gentile writing for Gentiles)
- Simeon gives prophecy to Mary: "this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."
  - Prophecy about the kind of death Jesus would experience
  - similar to prophetic gift of Magi (Myrrh)
  - Jesus' life is always in the shadow of the cross

## 2. Anna

- prophetess - no surprise since we know about Luke's emphasis on women
- Another reinforcing of the prophecy of who this baby was

## Read Luke 2:41-52

### Jesus in the temple as a child

- This is the only story we have of Jesus as a child.
- Emphasizes Jesus' (Mary and Joseph's) obedience to the law  
"his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover"
- 12 years old - maybe a connection to his Bar Mitzvah ("son of the commandment") - ceremony recognizing boy reaching adulthood
- Popular conception - Jesus teaching the teachers (doesn't say that); says that he astounded the teachers
- Important element: Jesus is identifying himself as being "in my Father's house" - he is God's son (Christological element)
- This is the last story in which we hear anything about Joseph

vs. 52 - "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

Jesus grew in all ways:

- "wisdom" - intellectually
- "stature" - physically
- "favor with God" - spiritually
- "favor with men" - socially

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### 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?