



A DAY IN THE TEMPLE

Lesson 4

BIG IDEA

Two temple guards discuss the significance of the arrival of Joseph and Mary to present their baby.

KEY VERSES

Luke 2:22-39

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 1:21

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

- Narrator
- Actor – Temple guard A
- Actor – Temple guard B
- Props – Some sort of helmet, shield or toy sword or sign hung around actors’ necks to indicate that the characters are temple guards.

GAME

- 2 flags – make from bandannas or old cloth
- Bright cloth strips or rope to mark boundaries (optional)

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- Large craft sticks, 2 per child
- Crayons or markers
- Brown or yellow construction paper 3x5 inches, one per child
- White felt 1x3 inch, one per child (or several cotton balls)
- Tan or peach colored construction paper 1” circle, 1 per child
- Cardstock cut in half (8.5x5.5 inches)
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)





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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

Lesson 4

[Temple Guard A stands in center of stage, arms crossed as if guarding the temple gates.
Temple Guard B enter from side of stage.]

Narrator: Long, long ago a temple guard was posted at the entrance to the Temple in Jerusalem. One day he observed a young married couple bring their baby to the temple to dedicate him to the Lord. This is what he saw.

A: There you are... welcome back!

B: Thanks, did I miss anything exciting?

A: You sure did! Should have seen who we had here in the Temple.

B: Who?

A: A sweet young couple with their first born son.

B: What's so unusual about that? Get those all the time. First time parents are always excited about their new baby.

A: What was different was, you know those that old man and old woman who always wander around in here. You know, the ones that are kinda crazy?

B: Yeah, I know them, they're God-fearing folk. Simeon and Anna. Hey, didn't anyone ever tell you to respect your elders?

A: Yes, and I'm older than you, so watch it, mister!

B: Oh.

A: Anyway, these ... ahem, dear people (glare)... made a big fuss about the little one, as if he were the greatest thing since unleavened bread. Anna took one look at the baby and started praising God and telling people he was the King that would deliver Jerusalem.

B: Wow.

A: Yeah. Ol' Simeon even said, 'Lord, now I can die in peace.'

B: This is it? Wonder what he meant by that?

A: Then he said, 'Just like you promised me, I have seen the Savior you have given to all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!'

B: Simeon said that about this baby?

A: Yup.

B: Some baby!

A: What do you think of that?

B: (is thoughtful for a while) Simeon was always hanging out for - for the birth of the Savior. (They look at each other silently for a moment.)



A DAY IN THE TEMPLE

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (CONT.)

Lesson 4

A: (shakes his head curiously) Naa...could it be?

B: (B nods thoughtfully) Yeahh...The Messiah!

A: The promised One!

B: That changes things around here a bit, doesn't it.

A: What do you mean?

B: When he grows up and comes here...

A: ...To the temple, God's house ...

B: ...it'll seem a bit like... home, if you know what I mean. And isn't it going to be a bit strange, praying to heaven when this Savior's right here with us?

A: (In awe) God, here on earth? (At length, turning to exit) Well, this changes things... What did the baby look like?

B: (Following A to exit) Beautiful, he had the cutest nose...

A: Yeah?!.... (exit)

Narrator: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only son of the Father.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who came to the temple?
2. Why did Joseph and Mary come to the temple?
3. Why was Simeon so happy to see the baby?
4. How do you think Simeon and Anna knew to look for a baby and that the baby was the Messiah?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Tell the account of Simeon in simple story form or read it from a children's bible.
- Ask 2-3 of the simpler discussion questions.



A DAY IN THE TEMPLE

CRAFT & GAME

Lesson 4

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: BABY JESUS

Kids will make a baby Jesus craft to remind them that Jesus came as a baby and was recognized as the Messiah, Savior of all people.

DIRECTIONS

- Color both craft sticks brown
- Overlap craft sticks in the middle and glue to center of cardstock.
- Cut brown construction paper into thin strips, glue at the top of the “manger”
- Glue white felt body above brown strips
- Glue circle to one side of the body
- Draw a face on the circle
- Write verse on cardstock, “I have seen the Savior you have given to all people.” Luke 2:30-31

SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Use craft sticks in their natural color
- Use glue dots
- Pre-make baby Jesus bodies
- Print bible verse copies for kids to glue onto craft

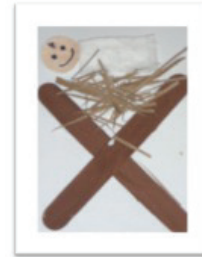
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Large craft sticks, 2 per child
- Crayons or markers
- Brown or yellow construction paper 3x5 inches, 1 per child
- White felt 1x3 inch, one per child (or several cotton balls)
- Tan or peach colored construction paper 1 inch circle, 1 per child
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EXAMPLE



• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: CAPTURE THE FLAG

A classic game!

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- 2 flags – make from bandannas or old cloth
- Bright cloth strips or rope to mark boundaries (opt.)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Separate children into 2 teams. Divide play area into two equal sides. Each team set up their flag in a visible place on their territory.
- Each team sends part of their group into the “enemy territory” to capture the opponent’s flag. The other part of the group stays to guard the tag. If a player is tagged while in the “enemy territory” the player must go back to his own side and touch his flag before he is able to play again.
- The team that successfully grabs the opponent’s flag and brings it to their own side without being tagged, wins.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- Play flag tag. Tape a small piece of paper on the back of each player. Kids try to grab the papers off each other’s backs. Players are “out” when their paper has been taken. Player with the most papers in the end wins.
- Play flag tag with two teams and different colors of paper.

