Bible Point

Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

Bible Verse

“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight” (Deuteronomy 6:18a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- learn how Joseph and Mary followed God’s law,
- hear what Simeon and Anna said about Jesus,
- help Pockets understand how important families are, and
- thank God for their families.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- Joseph and Mary bring baby Jesus to the Temple.

Parenting is a challenge for any family, but imagine having the responsibility of raising God’s own Son! Joseph and Mary had that awesome task, and the Bible clearly shows that they made every effort to do it right. When Jesus was still a tiny baby, Mary and Joseph followed the Jewish laws (Exodus 13:2 and Leviticus 12) by taking Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord and offer a sacrifice. Because of their obedience, they met a man named Simeon who took Jesus in his arms and thanked God for sending the Savior of the world. Then Anna, a prophetess, praised God for Jesus and told everyone there that Jesus was the promised Savior.

Most children get frustrated with their parents’ rules and expectations. It’s important for children to understand that their parents’ actions are prompted by love and that they’re doing what God wants them to do. By looking at Jesus’ childhood, children will be challenged to do the right things.

Prayer

• Read 1 Timothy 1:5.

• How do you respond when someone in authority tells you to follow a certain rule? How can you help your students understand the importance of following rules?

• Pray: Dear Lord, sometimes following rules is hard. Please help me to follow your path for my life and help guide me as I instruct my students in these ways…

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.

- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.

- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

Welcome!

**SUPPLIES:** “Child Name Tags” handout (p. 98), markers, pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned…” discussion. Ask questions such as “What was your favorite part of the Christmas story?” and “How did you seek Jesus?”

- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ▶ Jesus did what was right and so did his family.**

- Give each child a photocopy of a child name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags and pin or tape them to their clothing. You may wish to cover the name tags in clear adhesive paper so that the name tags will last for the entire module.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What do you enjoy doing with your family?” or “How do you think Jesus behaved when he was little?”

**Option 1: Family Dress-Up**

**SUPPLIES:** mirror, old jewelry, hats, purses, clothes, scarves, ties, shoes

Set up a family dress-up center with a mirror, old jewelry, hats, purses, shirts, scarves, ties, shoes, and old suits and dresses. Have children pretend they’re a family getting ready for church. Once everyone is dressed, you may want to take a quick trip to the church nursery to see the babies. Talk about how Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to the Temple because God’s law said to. Tell children that today they’ll learn that ▶ Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

**Option 2: Family Fans**

**SUPPLIES:** crayons, markers, 4x6 index cards, hole punch, paper fasteners

Set out markers, crayons or colored pencils, and a stack of 4x6 index cards. Have children draw pictures of each member of their families on separate index cards. While children are drawing, explain that in today’s story they’ll learn about Jesus’ family and how they did what was right. Have children use a hole punch to punch a hole at the bottom of each card and then stack the cards together. Help them each attach a paper fastener through the holes to hold the cards together. Show students how to fan out

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Joseph and Mary Bring Baby Jesus to the Temple

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6
their cards to show each family member and then put them back in a stack as one whole family. Tell children that today they’ll learn that Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

**Option 3: Growing Up Healthy**

**SUPPLIES:** beans, water, cups, spoons, resealable sandwich bags, paper towels, tape

Set out resealable sandwich bags, paper towels, plastic spoons, cups of water, and beans. Have each child fold a paper towel and put it in the bottom of a plastic bag, and then pour in three or four tablespoons of water so the towels are saturated. Allow each child to sprinkle five or six beans in the bag. Help children seal their bags and tape them to a window. Tell children that seeds need water and sun to grow into bean sprouts. Explain that Jesus needed love and care to help him grow from a boy into a man. Tell children that today’s story is about how Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

**Pick Up Our Toys**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

**SING**

We will pick up our toys.  
There’s [name] picking up toys.  
We will pick up our toys  
There’s [name] picking up toys.  
We will pick up our toys  
There’s [name] picking up toys,  
And put them all away.  
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

**Bible Story Time**

**Setting the Stage**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, the children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Form groups of three or four. Say: Form a circle with your group, and then...
choose one person to stand in the middle of your circle while the others hold hands. Pause for children to follow your instructions. I’m going to give some instructions for you to follow. If you're inside a circle, you'll need to go along with whatever your group members do. Call out the following instructions:

• take baby steps and touch a wall
• tiptoe all the way around the room
• raise your hands and shout “Yippee!”
• take four giant steps away from me
• skip around in your circle
• stand up and sit down twice
• hop to another group and sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”
• tickle everyone in your group, and then sit down

Have group members switch roles each time you’ve given two instructions, so each member has a turn to be in the middle. Then form a circle and ask:

• What was it like to be in the middle of the circle? (Fun; crowded; silly.)
• While you were in the middle, could you have disobeyed my instructions? Explain. (No, because my friends were doing the right thing; maybe, but it would have been hard.)
• How did your group help you follow my instructions? (They pulled me along; they made it fun; they were all around me and helped me do the same thing they did.)

Say: When you were surrounded by people who were following my instructions, it made it easy for you to follow along, too. God surrounded Jesus with friends and family who would help him do the right things, too. Today we’re going to learn that Jesus did what was right and so did his family. Let’s hear how God placed Jesus in a family that would do the right thing and surround him with love.

**Bible Song and Prayer Time**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, then stamp the thumbs up stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Mark Luke 2:21-40 in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I’ll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today’s Bible helper, let’s sing our Bible song. As we sing, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.
Now it's time to read God’s book,
Now it's time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the thumbs up stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible helper for today.

Identify the Bible helper, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible helper to bring you the Bible. Assist the Bible helper in opening the Bible to the marked place, and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible helper sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible helper today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible helper, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn how Jesus and his family obeyed God. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, thank you for letting Jesus be our example.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside for use next week, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that Jesus did what was right and so did his family.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, transparent tape

Before class, cut apart the Learning Mat: Story Circles, found in the Learning Lab. Use transparent tape to tape the ends of the first circle together. Store the Story Circles in the Learning Lab for use in later lessons.

Have children gather around you. Hold up the Bible and say: Our Bible story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. As we listen to the story on the CD, let’s have fun acting it out! I’ll need lots of helpers. Choose volunteers to be Simeon, Anna, Mary, Joseph, and a priest. Instruct the rest of the children to be people at the Temple, walking by or sitting near the action. As children hear the story “Simeon’s and Anna’s Stories” on track 12 of the CD, encourage them to make motions or facial expressions that go along with their different roles.

Turn off the CD player, and congratulate children on their performance. Form a circle and hold up Story Circle 1. Place your fingers on the first two dots so the first scene is showing. Say: Our Story Circle shows pictures of the Bible story. Let’s see what you can remember. Tell me what’s happening in this picture. (Mary and Joseph are traveling; Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are going to Jerusalem; Jesus’ family is taking a trip.)

Ask: Why did they have to take this trip? (To offer sacrifices; because God’s law said to; because they were supposed to.)
Turn the *Story Circle*, and hold it so the second scene is showing. Have children tell you what’s happening in the picture. (The family finally got to Jerusalem; they’re closer to the Temple.)

Ask: • **How do you think they felt when they finally got there?** (Happy; nervous; tired.)

• **Why was going to Jerusalem the right thing to do?** (Because it was in God’s law; because they were supposed to go.)

Turn the *Story Circle* so children are looking at the third scene. Have children tell you what’s happening in the picture. (Simeon is talking to God; Anna is thanking God; Simeon is holding Jesus; Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are at the Temple.)

Ask: • **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they heard what Simeon and Anna said about Jesus?** (Good; happy; sad; excited.)

Turn the *Story Circle*, and show children the last scene. Have children tell you what’s happening in the picture. (The priest is touching Jesus; Mary and Joseph are giving Jesus to God; they’re making a sacrifice.)

Ask: • **Why did Mary and Joseph do the right thing?** (Because they loved God; because they followed God’s laws; because they loved Jesus.)

Put the *Story Circle* away and out of sight. Then say:  

**Jesus did what was right and so did his family.** God blessed Mary and Joseph because they followed his laws, and God blessed them by sending Simeon and Anna to tell the people in the Temple good things about Jesus. God wants our families to surround us with love and protection and to help us do what is right.

Say: **Let’s surround God’s Word, the Bible, as we pray right now.** Place the Bible on a chair, and have children join hands in a circle around the chair.

Pray: **Dear God, we want to do what is right and good just like Jesus did. We’re so glad that we have the Bible to help us follow your laws. Thank you for sending Jesus to help us do what is right. We know that all we have to do is pray and ask him to guide us.**

In Jesus’ name, amen.

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**Do the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** potatoes, water, bowls, paper towels, soft cloth, baby powder, paper cups, wax paper, rubber bands, forks, CD player

Before this activity, pour a few tablespoons of baby powder or cornstarch into paper cups. You’ll need one cup for each group of four children. Cover each cup with wax paper, and secure the wax paper with a rubber band. Use a fork to poke several small holes in the wax paper.

Form groups of four. Say: **Mary and Joseph took good care of Jesus. Now we’re going to see what it’s like to take care of babies. In your groups, choose a Washer, a Dryer, a Powder Person, and a Bundler.** Pause for children to choose their roles, then hold up a potato. **This is your “baby.” It’s important to take good care of your baby and handle him or her with gentle care. You’ll need to work together to wash, dry, powder, and bundle up your baby.**
Instruct each group to form an assembly line. Give bowls of water to the Washers, paper towels to the Dryers, cups of baby powder to the Powder People, and soft cloths or facial tissues to the Bundlers. On your signal, have groups begin caring for their potato babies by washing, drying, powdering, and bundling them. Remind children that it’s not a race and that they need to be gentle with their babies. When each group has finished, collect the babies and ask:

- **What was it like to care for a potato baby?** (Hard work; fun; busy; I felt silly because it was a potato.)

- **How is that like caring for a real baby? How is it different?** (Both of them take a lot of work; real babies are harder because they can get sick or hungry; it was like a real baby because we had to wash and dry it.)

- **How did Mary and Joseph take care of Jesus?** (They took him to the Temple; they fed him; they helped him grow strong.)

- **How does your family take care of you?** (My mom walks me to school; my dad gives me medicine when I’m sick; they love me.)

Say: ➤**Jesus did what was right and so did his family.** Our Bible verse can help us remember to do what’s right. I’ll say the verse, and when it’s your turn, clap your hands once as you say each word. Ready? ➤“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight.” Lead the children in repeating the verse, clapping once as they say each word.

To help children remember this week’s Bible verse, play the song “Right and Good” (Deuteronomy 6:18a) (track 13) from the CD. Encourage children to sing along to the tune of “Rise and Shine.”

**Sing**

Do what is right  
And good in the Lord’s sight.  
Do what is right  
And good in the Lord’s sight.  
Do—what’s—right—and  
(Clap) good in the Lord’s sight.  
We want to be like Jesus!  
(Repeat.)

Say: Thanks for that singing! You know what? Pockets was here earlier and seemed pretty sad. Maybe we can cheer her up with our story about Jesus’ family.

**Runaway Pockets**

**SUPPLIES:** pencil, sock, bandanna

Before class bundle up a sock in a bandanna, and tie the bandanna to the end of a pencil or a stick. Have Pockets hold this “hobo-style” over one shoulder during the script. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.
(Pockets enters with hobo pack over one shoulder.)

Teacher: Pockets, what’s that you’re carrying?
Pockets: (Sniffling) It’s my clothes and hair bows. I-I’m running away from home, and I thought I’d need them.

Teacher: Running away from home!? Why?
Pockets: (Sniffs turn to anger.) Well, well, because of my family! They’re so unfair… and…and mean, too!

Teacher: Pockets, you have a wonderful, loving family. Why would you ever want to leave them?
Pockets: My parents are always paying more attention to my baby sister. They feed her, give her baths, play with her, hold her…I never get any attention!

Teacher: Your parents love you just as much as your sister. But she’s a baby and babies need lots of love and attention. They can’t do very much on their own. Even Jesus needed a special family to take care of him. Children, can you tell Pockets what Jesus’ family did? (Allow children to share how Jesus’ family did what was right by taking him to the Temple and allowing Anna and Simeon to say good things about him.)
Pockets: So you don’t think my parents love my sister more than me?

Teacher: Of course not! Remember, you were their little baby once, too. And they took good care of you so you could grow up to be the wonderful kangaroo you are today. They need to give that special attention to your sister, too.
Pockets: (Thinking) If I ran away, my parents wouldn’t have anyone to help them. Taking care of a baby is a lot of work, you know! Maybe I’d better stick around to help out and show my sister how to be a big kangaroo.

Teacher: That sounds like a super idea.
Pockets: Say, I’d better get back soon! It’s almost time for my sister’s bath. Mom probably needs me to help out! 'Bye, everyone!

I Love My Family
SUPPLIES: CD player

Say: Pockets’ family would have missed her if she’d run away. They love her so much! I’ll bet your families love you all, too. Let’s sing a song to help us remember that Jesus did what was right and so did his family.
Sing “Bigger Every Day” (track 14) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” with the CD. Between verses pause the CD, and have children share what they like about their families. Children might mention that they like going camping together, that they like getting hugs, or that they like going out for ice cream with their families.

### Sing

**Grow, grow, growing up** (start in a squatting position, and then stand taller on each “grow”),

*Just like Jesus grew.* (Point to heaven.)

*Though I’m small* (hold hand low, as if measuring);

*I’m growing tall* (move hand higher);

*There’s so much I can do!* (Hold hands over head, and turn around in a circle.)

**Grow, grow, growing up** (start in a squatting position, and then stand taller on each “grow”),

*Bigger every day!* (Reach up.)

*I’ll do what’s right* (nod head yes)

*With all my might* (flex muscles)

*At church, at home, at play!* (Hop three times.)

Say: When your families do what’s right, they’re helping you do what’s right, too. Let’s pray and thank God that Jesus did what was right and so did his family. Pray: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus and giving him a special family who loved you and did what was right. Thank you for our families and help us all to do right this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Bible Point

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.

**web-tip**

Want even more activity ideas for this lesson? Check out HandsOnBible.com/tips.
For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Thankful Cheer**

Form a circle, and give one student the plastic ring. Remind children that Simeon held Jesus and thanked God for sending him. Have children pass the ring around the circle while they say, “One and two, three and four, this is what we’re thankful for!” The child who’s holding the plastic ring when the rhyme ends must then share something for which he or she is thankful. Have children continue the rhyming and passing game until everyone has shared a praise.

■ **Make to Take: Heirlooms**

Make enough photocopies of the “Heirlooms” handout (p. 99) for each child to have one. Set out crayons, pencils, scissors, gift wrap, and other decorative items. Instruct children to color one square on their handouts for each person in their family. Have them draw pictures of things that remind them of each family member and then cut out the heart shapes. Encourage children to put family pictures in the heart shapes when they get home.

Note: You may choose to put these “quilt” pieces together to form a wall quilt on a wall of your classroom.

■ **Treat to Eat: Graham Cracker Quilts**

Set out graham crackers (broken into quarters), softened cream cheese, jelly, raisins, and colored sprinkles. Direct children to make graham cracker quilts by spreading cream cheese on their graham crackers and then adding different toppings to each section. When children put the sections together, they will form an edible quilt. Remind children that babies like to snuggle under warm blankets.

■ **Story Picture: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in the Temple**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Have the children color the pictures and then pull cotton balls apart and glue cotton “hair” on Simeon and Anna. Explain that when Jesus’ parents took him to the Temple, they were doing the right thing.
Child Name Tags
Heirlooms
Today I learned...

Today your child learned that Jesus did what was right and so did his family. Children heard the wonderful things that Simeon and Anna proclaimed about Jesus. They talked about growing up like Jesus and doing what’s right.

Verse to Learn
“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight” (Deuteronomy 6:18a).

Ask Me...
- What were Joseph and Mary doing at the Temple?
- How can you grow up like Jesus?
- What “right things” does our family do?

Family Fun
- Work together to make a batch of muffins. As you work, talk about how following directions is important when making a tasty treat. Explain that God’s Word is like a “recipe” for doing what’s right.