



UNIT 8, SESSION 4

# JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 2

## KEY POINT

Jesus wants our lives to be filled by Him.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What should our life be filled with? Our life should be filled with Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is my strength and my shield. Psalm 28:7

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

As leaders, we know how easily children are distracted. So many places we find ourselves each day—a rowdy classroom, a busy street, a crowded store—are full of sights, sounds, smells, voices calling out, people moving quickly, and so many things competing for our attention. It would be hard to stop and pray or listen to God in the middle of all that noise. This helps us understand what the temple was like when Jesus visited it.

The temple was meant to be a place of worship. A place where people could focus their hearts on God. Instead, Jesus found people buying, selling, and changing money. The noise and activity were distracting others from worship. Jesus became angry, not because He was treated poorly, but because God's house was not being honored. This was righteous anger, a kind of anger that comes from love for God and concern for others.

This story shows us a side of Jesus we don't often talk about. Jesus is loving and gentle, but He also cares deeply about honoring God. His actions remind us that worship matters and God deserves our full attention.

Paul later teaches us that we are now God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16). God's Spirit lives in us. Just as Jesus wanted the temple to be clean and focused on God, He wants our hearts and lives to honor Him too. Sometimes that means removing things that distract us or pull us away from loving God and others.

As leaders, this is a powerful reminder. We help children learn that worship is special, that God lives with us, and that our choices matter. May we also reflect on our own lives, asking God to show us anything that needs to be removed so that we can worship Him fully.

# WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

## WELCOME

Play music through the undercabinet radio (flash drive), or connect your phone to Bluetooth through the radio and play Christian preschool/Bible songs as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

## MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”:

The Lord is my strength and my shield.  
Psalm 28:7  
*(repeat 2x)*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Toddlers & Twos:** Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

**Threes & Fours:** Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

# CRAFT



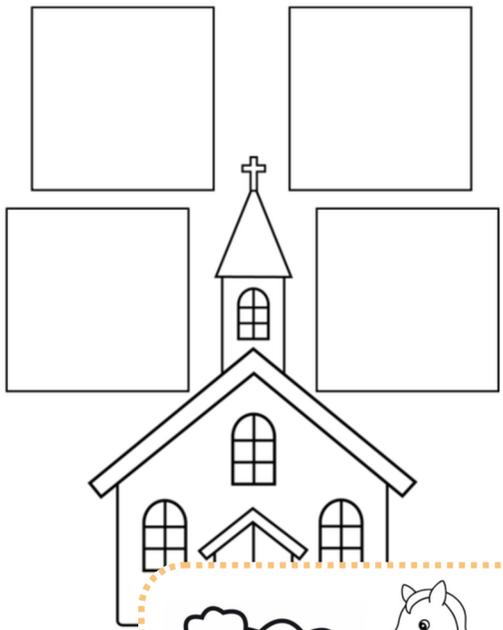
Help children with a craft connected to the Bible lesson.

## CRAFT: GOD'S HOUSE

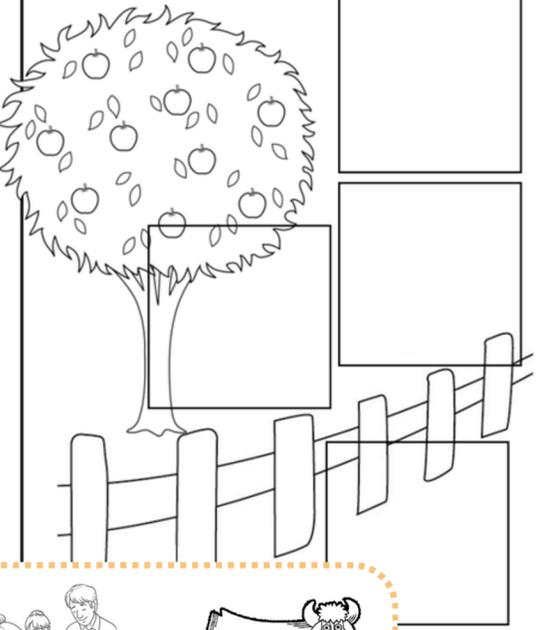
Give each child a set of the provided papers and cutouts, plus markers/crayons and glue. Have children take some time to color/decorate their papers.

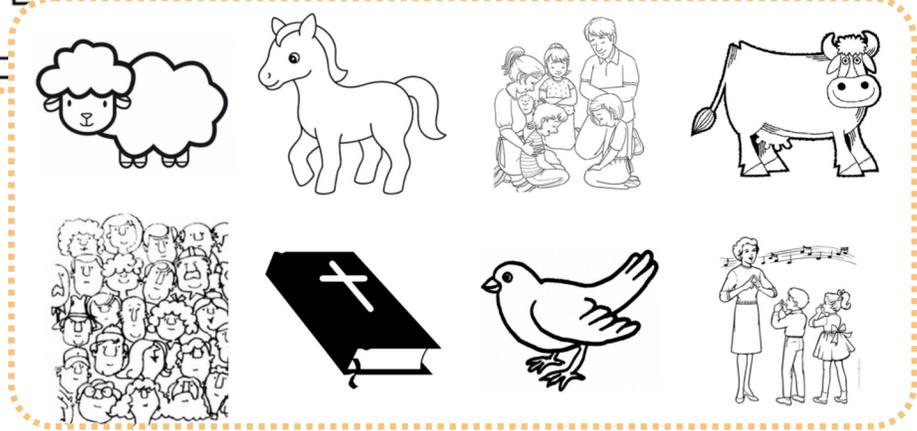
Help children determine which items on the cutouts do and don't belong in God's house, then help them glue the cutouts to the correct paper. Review why each thing does or doesn't belong in God's house. Be sure to write each child's name on their craft so you know which one to send home with them!

**Things that belong in God's House**



**Things that do NOT belong in God's House**







## BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

One day, Jesus and His disciples went to the temple. The temple was a special place to worship God and pray. Jesus always looked forward to visiting the temple.

When Jesus arrived, He couldn't believe what He saw. It looked like a marketplace. There were cows, sheep, and birds. People were selling all sorts of things and swapping money. People were not thinking about God.

Jesus was very sad. He was angry at the way people were treating God. Jesus loved His Father and His house! Jesus turned over the tables and set the birds and animals free. Jesus told the people, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'My Temple will be a house where people will pray.'"

## THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

At the time of Passover, Jesus and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem to worship God and pray at the temple. The temple was a special place, where people worshiped God and offered sacrifices. Jesus always looked forward to visiting the temple and praying with God's people.

When Jesus arrived at the temple, He couldn't believe what He saw. Instead of people praying and worshiping, it looked like a marketplace. There were cows, sheep, and birds. People were selling all sorts of things and exchanging money. People were not thinking about God.

Jesus was very sad. He was angry at the way people were treating God. Jesus loved His Father and His house! Jesus turned over the tables and set the birds and animals free. He told the people to get all those things out of His Father's house.

Jesus reminded the people, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'My Temple will be a house where people will pray.'" Some of the people became angry with Jesus. They wanted to keep cheating people. But others joined Jesus to pray and worship God in the temple.

**KEY POINT:** Jesus wants our lives to be filled by Him.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What did Jesus do to clear the temple?
4. What should our life be filled with? **Our life should be filled with Jesus.**

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**