



Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are joyful participants in worshipping the Lord. It's easy for them to acknowledge the amazing things God does and believe in his power, goodness, and love. In this lesson, kids will discover that worship is important to God. Follow kids' lead and become like them—childlike—and give yourself in worship to God. You'll leave worry behind and be refreshed by the knowledge of God's presence and love!



► Bible Point


Worship God.

Key Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will worship God this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Worship God Play a game and call out ways they aren't ashamed of the gospel.	Bible, large bowl, large bag of wrapped candy	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what an animal has to do with the Bible today.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, plastic animal (or a drawing of an animal) Teacher Pack: CD	Put the animal inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Jesus at the Temple Find out what Jesus did when he discovered the Temple was not being used to worship God.	Bible, CD player, blocks, toy animals, play money Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), "Heart" stickers 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Temple Trouble Clean out a temple as Jesus did, and talk about what happened in the Bible.</p>	pencils, clear tape, child-safe scissors, My Bible Playground	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Cleaning Up Snack Make a temple snack, and then “clean it up” by eating it.</p>	can of frosting or package of cream cheese, animal cookies, graham crackers, paper plates, napkins, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Worship Center Experience different ways to worship God.</p>	CD player, streamers, paper, art supplies Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Center 4: God’s House Is Different Make a foldout church with drawings inside and outside.</p>	1 white business envelope per child, crayons or markers, scissors	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>Worship Prayer Share reasons they love Jesus.</p>	streamers from the “Worship Center” activity	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





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John 2:13-22

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



Temple Laws Gone Wrong

Strict regulations guided the activity that was to take place in the Temple. This was to remain a holy place, the dwelling place of God. According to Isaiah 56:7, it was to be a house of prayer.

Unfortunately, the Jewish leaders, who strictly upheld laws that were convenient for them, saw an opportunity for profit in the animals to be sacrificed at the Temple. Any animal to be offered as a sacrifice was to be perfect, free from blemish. And people bringing animals for sacrifice surely chose the best from the flocks and herds. But when Jewish pilgrims brought their animals for sacrifice, the Temple inspectors regularly found something wrong with them. Then they would conveniently offer animals they had approved—for many times the going price outside the Temple.

Merchants also were exchanging money—giving people the Temple currency in exchange for their Roman or other foreign coins. The Temple currency was required for paying the Temple tax. From Jesus’ disdain of this practice, it’s easy to assume that people were also being cheated in this process.

Jesus Clears the Temple

It’s likely that Jesus’ response, while passionate, was not a purely emotional outburst. He saw what was going on in the Temple, he took time to make a whip from some ropes, and then he took appropriate action. Jesus was angry, and rightly so, but not out of control. He told the merchants, “Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

The Merchants’ Response

The Jews’ response is interesting. They didn’t deny that they had been doing wrong. No one asked Jesus

why he did what he did. No one angrily struck back at Jesus out of righteous indignation. Their only response was to ask, “How can you prove you have the authority to do this?” When people know they’re in the wrong, they often resort to legalistic maneuvering to try to blur the plain evidence of their guilt.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus’ passion in this account reveals that he desires a real relationship with his people. Nothing—no money-changers or legalism—can get in the way of his love for you!

Does Jesus need to “drive out” wrong worship from your life? How have distracting thoughts, focus on self, or efforts to appear spiritual hindered your own sincere worship? Take a moment to physically bow down before God. Spend time silently clearing out the “Temple courts” in your life and praising God with a sincere heart. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hi, My Friend!"
(track 2), "Love Is
Patient and Kind"
(1 Corinthians 13:4-5a)
(track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle on the floor. Sing "Hi, My Friend!" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.

 **Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend!** (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

I'm so glad you came to class today. (*hug a friend*)

Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

God is here with you and me today! (*hold hands in a circle, and raise them high*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **We're so glad you're here today! We're going to learn about worshipping God. One way we ► WORSHIP GOD is by singing. Let's worship him now. We'll stand in a circle as we sing, and let's invite Jesus to be with us today.**

Lead kids in singing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.

 **Love is patient and kind.**

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.





Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.

"Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Singing is a great way to worship God, but it's not the only way we**
▶ **WORSHIP GOD. Let's find out some other ways we can worship him!**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Worship God

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Romans 1:16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 1:16, says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Let's say our Key Verse together.**

Lead children in repeating the shortened Key Verse with you several times: **"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **The gospel is the good news about Jesus. To be ashamed means being embarrassed. We don't want to be ashamed of the gospel, because the gospel tells us about Jesus and his love for us. In the Bible today, we'll hear how Jesus went out to tell everyone about God because he wasn't ashamed of this good news either. We're going to play a game to help us remember this.**

Place the bowl and bag of wrapped candy in the center of the room. Tell the children when you call "worship God," you want everyone to run to one of two corners while you close your eyes. When you open your eyes, call out the following questions and give children in each corner about 10 seconds to call out as many answers as they can to your question.



Worship God Supplies

- Bible
- large bowl
- large bag of wrapped candy

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**





Ask:

- **Corner 1: Name three people you can share the good news about Jesus with.**
- **Corner 2: Name something you can do to share the good news about Jesus with others.**

For every answer given, put a piece of candy in the bowl. Then divide the candy evenly among all the children, adding from the bag if necessary.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's the best news you ever got?**
- **When you have good news, who are the people you want to tell first? Why do you want to tell those people first?**

Say: **Worship is important to God. When we ► WORSHIP GOD, we show we aren't ashamed of his message to us. Let's say our Key Verse one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **We're going to take home some sweet treats to remember that when we leave here we will not be ashamed of the gospel!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle, and then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: You won't believe what I found. It's in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box and have kids pass the animal around the circle. Give children time to guess what they might learn in the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, why do you think Theo hid this animal in his box?
(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
plastic animal (or a drawing of an animal)
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the animal inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Teacher: Theo, what does this animal mean? Why is it in the Surprise Box?
Theo: Well, Jesus knew that worship is important to God, so he went to the Temple—which is like a church.
Teacher: That's right! And that's why we come to church, too. We want to worship God.
Theo: When Jesus got to the Temple, he found sheep and a lot of other things.
Teacher: Were there any dogs like you at the Temple, Theo?
Theo: I don't know! What do you kids think?
(Pause for kids to answer.)
Teacher: Jesus told everyone that God's church wasn't for animals. The church is for worship. So just like Jesus, we ► **WORSHIP GOD.** Let's find out more!
Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!
Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Jesus at the Temple

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to John 2 and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today's Bible verse tells us that worship is important to God. In Jesus' day, people worshipped God in a Temple. It was a very special, holy place like our church. To get ready for Bible time, let's use these blocks to make a temple.**

Have kids work together to build a temple using the blocks.

As they build, say: **Worship is important to God because he deserves our thanks and praise. He made us and he made everything in our world! Jesus and his friends worshipped in a Temple. They may have sung and prayed like we do today. We worship God in church, but we can also worship God anywhere. Good job building this temple! You did fine work. Now close your eyes as I tell you about Jesus. Let's pretend we're back in the days when Jesus was here.** Have kids close their eyes.

Play "Market Noises" (track 9 on the CD) in the background. Fill the temple with the toy animals and play money as you begin.

Say: **One day, Jesus and his friends decided to go to the Temple. When Jesus got there, people weren't worshipping God. Jesus found people selling cows, sheep, and doves! Go ahead and open your eyes.** Pause for kids to see their temple filled with animals and money. **Jesus loves animals, but he was angry because the people were selling them in the Temple! So he made all the people who were selling things leave the Temple. Jesus told them, "Get out of here! How dare you do this in my father's house!"** Show kids the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster.



Bible Time: Jesus at the Temple Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- blocks
- toy animals
- play money
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Market Noises" (track 9)
- "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
- "Heart" stickers





Let's clear our temple, too. Have kids take the items out of the temple and place them aside. As they take out each item, have them say, "Get these out of here!" Encourage kids to mend the original temple if some blocks have tumbled over in the process.

Say: **When we ► WORSHIP GOD, he wants us to worship him with our whole heart. Let's do an activity that will remind us of our Bible Point.** Encourage each child to place a heart sticker on the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster as they say "Worship God."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think when you opened your eyes and saw your temple?**
- **Why was it good for Jesus to remove the animals and money from the Temple?**

Say: **You looked surprised when you saw the things that filled your temple. Jesus could have been surprised, but he also was angry. He wanted the Temple to be a special place to worship God. God's church shouldn't be crowded with a bunch of people selling animals. Jesus wants us to know that worship is important to God, so we ► WORSHIP GOD. God loves us. We tell God we love him when we worship him!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Temple Trouble

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 2 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Have kids cut out the cross, cow, sheep, and dove shapes at the bottom of the page.

Say: **Jesus was angry because people sold animals in the Temple. Jesus knew that the church is where we ► WORSHIP GOD. So Jesus cleaned out the Temple. Let's clean out our temples like Jesus did and make them places of worship.**

Center 1: Temple Trouble Supplies

pencils
clear tape
child-safe scissors
My Bible Playground

Center 1: Temple Trouble Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
2 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Have each child remove the animals and tape them inside the fenced area on the page. Then have each child tape the cross on the temple.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important to worship God in the temple?
- What are ways we worship God in our church?

Say: **Now we've cleaned out the temple. The cross reminds us that we**

▶ **WORSHIP GOD** and worship is important to God.

■ CENTER 2:

Cleaning Up Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands before preparing the snack. Pray, thanking God for the snack children are about to make, and ask him to help them remember that we

▶ **WORSHIP GOD.**

Have kids make a temple by spreading icing on a cookie or graham cracker. Then have each child fill the temple with some animal cookies. Have kids clear out the temples as they eat their animal crackers one by one and say, "We worship God. Get this out of here!"

Say: **I'm so glad we ▶ WORSHIP GOD! He loves us. He knows everything about us. He cares for us. He helps us. He deserves our worship! Let's say a cheer for God!**

Lead kids in a hip-hip-hooray cheer for Jesus.

■ CENTER 3:

Worship Center

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Stand in a circle with kids.

Say: **We don't have to just sing songs to worship God. You can pray or tell each other why you love God. You could play a song from our CD, move around using these streamers, or even draw a picture for God using these art supplies.**

Encourage kids to explore a variety of ways to worship God spontaneously.



Center 2: Cleaning Up Snack Supplies

-
- can of frosting or package of cream cheese
 - animal cookies
 - graham crackers
 - paper plates
 - napkins
 - plastic knives
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

! **ALLERGY
ALERT**

Center 3: Worship Center Supplies

-
- CD player
 - streamers
 - paper
 - art supplies
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: various songs





Center 4: God's House Is Different Supplies

1 white business
envelope per child
crayons or markers
scissors

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what to do to worship God?
- What's the best part about worshipping God?

Say: **There's no right or wrong way to worship God. What's important is that we ► WORSHIP GOD. Worship makes us feel good. It feels good to tell God we love him.**

■ CENTER 4:

God's House Is Different

What You'll Do ■■■■

Demonstrate the following for children. Take an envelope and hold the top flap up, with the open slot facing you. Use scissors to cut a vertical line in the center of the front layer from the top to the bottom fold. Cut horizontally from the bottom center to the bottom right and left of the envelope.

Show children that when the envelope is opened, it looks like the inside of a church building.

Give children each an envelope, and help them cut the envelopes in the same way. Have kids draw a cross at the top and center of the open envelope flap. Tell kids to use the crayons or markers to create pictures of what people do inside church, such as praying, singing, reading the Bible, and talking to others.

Say: **We learned from the Bible that worship is important to God. The people in Jesus' time had let animals and salesmen into their place of worship. They weren't worshipping God with all their hearts.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kinds of things keep us from worshipping God?
- Why is it important to worship God?

Say: **We can take this church home to remind us that worshipping God means focusing on God. This week, remember to not let anything take your attention away from God! When we focus on God only, we ► WORSHIP GOD!**





5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that we ► **WORSHIP GOD**. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember that we worship God.

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. Lead your family in singing a worship song, and then explain to them that worship is important to God.
2. Draw a picture of yourself worshipping God, and then hang it up in your bedroom to remind you that worship is important to God.
3. When you wake up in the morning, worship God by thanking him for another day.

Say: If you want to sing a worship song, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to thank God for another day, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Worship Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children take turns finishing the prayer, "Jesus, I love you because..." After each child's prayer, have all children hold their streamers high, twirl them in circles, and say, "Let us worship God." Close by saying the following prayer:

Pray: God, thank you for teaching us that it's important to ► **WORSHIP GOD**. Help us worship you forever! In Jesus' name, amen.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Worship Prayer Supplies

streamers from the "Worship Center" activity





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

