



# Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

Fifth- and sixth-graders are gaining a new understanding of what worship is. They're in the process of exiting children's church, but they might not feel completely comfortable in adult worship. They're old enough to understand who God is, but they may not completely comprehend what happens in worship. Use this lesson to help kids understand that worship is a time for sincerity.



### ► Bible Point


God wants sincere worship.

### Key Verse

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Preteens will worship God from their hearts.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Holy Hardware Fashions</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Decorate pictures of clothing items, and discuss the images created.	markers, glitter glue, glue, yarn, stickers (optional), scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Shoes and Caps" activity sheet	Cut the "Shoes and Caps" sheet into sections. 
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>The Worship Auction</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Bid M&M's candy to buy differently wrapped items, and then compare this with the attitudes the people showed in the Bible.	Bible, 3 gift bags, 1 paper bag, tissue paper, 2 bags of M&M's candy, scissors, CD player, "Temple" handout (at the end of this lesson), antibacterial gel (optional) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Prepare 3 gift bags with tissue paper. Cut apart the "Temple" handout and put 1 of the 3 sections of verses into each of the 3 gift bags—making sure you keep them in 1, 2, 3 order. Put a small bag of M&M's candies in the paper bag.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Does Worship Jingle?</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Rewrite familiar commercials to promote their church's worship service.	Bible Buzz, pens, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	<b>A Healthy Serving of Worship</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create a menu of ways they can genuinely worship.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.**



# Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Temple Laws Gone Wrong

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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### Holy Hardware Fashions Supplies

markers  
glitter glue  
glue  
yarn  
stickers (optional)  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
“Shoes and Caps”  
activity sheet

### Holy Hardware Fashions Easy Prep

Cut the “Shoes and  
Caps” sheet into  
sections.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Holy Hardware Fashions

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form four groups, and give either a shoe or a cap from the activity sheet to each group.

Say: **Your goal today is to decorate either the shoe or the cap so that it will be the “Best of Show.”** (Note: Remember to leave the definition of “Best of Show” vague. You want them to begin thinking about what it means to be best.) **You can use any of the supplies here or anything else you have with you. After you’ve finished decorating, you’ll need to develop a one-minute explanation of why your work should be considered “Best of Show.”** Allow about 10 minutes.

After kids have finished, allow them to explain why their decorated item should be considered “Best of Show.” Encourage their efforts, and applaud after each presentation is given. You won’t announce a winner, but you will want to ask some questions.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Would you actually wear something that’s decorated like that? Why or why not?**
- **How do the decorations on the outside make the shoe or the cap a better piece of clothing to wear?**
- **Why do we spend so much time worrying about outward appearances?**

Say: **Some things may be decorated on the outside, but the decorations do nothing to make the thing more useful—such as the shoes and caps we decorated. The same thing can be said of how we approach worship. There’s a difference between what goes on inside and what we show people on the outside. Today we’ll explore this idea as we discover that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.**





## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# The Worship Auction

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place the bags you prepared beforehand in front of your preteens as you introduce this activity.

Begin playing "Sounds of an Auctioneer" (track 3 on the CD).

Say: **Ladies and gentlemen, we are at the Worldwide Worship Action Auction. You are going to have the opportunity to bid on wonderful prizes. Do we accept money here? No! We only accept these!**

Give each preteen a handful of M&M's candy from one of the bags. Say: **We have four packages that we're going to bid on today.**

Ask:

- **What do I hear for Bag 1?**

Allow kids to bid pieces of their M&M's candy; then present the bag to the highest bidder. Have the winning bidder open the bag and read the section of verses aloud to the group. Continue this procedure for the remaining bags, ending with the paper bag containing the M&M's candy.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did you decide what to bid on the bags?**
- **What did you hope they contained?**
- **Tell about a time the outward clues for something weren't truthful.**

Say: **When Jesus entered the Temple, he had certain expectations about what was going on inside, just like you probably did with these bags.**

Ask:

- **What are some things that can make worship insincere?**
- **Why is it important that people worship from the heart?**
- **During the auction, you used M&M's candy to pay for these bags. In real life, what does worship cost you?**

Say: **Jesus was angry because people had dishonored the place of worship for the Jewish people. ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Let's look further into the qualities God desires for our worship to him.**



### The Worship Auction Supplies

- Bible
- 3 gift bags
- 1 paper bag
- tissue paper
- 2 bags of M&M's candy
- scissors
- CD player
- "Temple" handout (at the end of this lesson)
- antibacterial gel (optional)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Sounds of an Auctioneer" (track 3)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### The Worship Auction Easy Prep

Prepare 3 gift bags with tissue paper. Cut apart the "Temple" handout and put 1 of the 3 sections of verses into each of the 3 gift bags—making sure you keep them in 1, 2, 3 order. Put a small bag of M&M's candies in the paper bag.





### Does Worship Jingle? Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Let Us Bow Down  
in Worship" (Psalm  
95:6-7) (track 4)

### Does Worship Jingle? Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2  
pages from each Bible  
Buzz student book.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Does Worship Jingle?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz page, and have kids find the "Worship Commercial" section.

Ask:

- What are some of your favorite commercials?
- Do they make you want to have what's being advertised? Why or why not?
- What makes an effective commercial?

Say: **Your assignment is to choose a commercial you've seen or heard and rewrite it to promote our church's worship service. You can work together and jot notes on your Bible Buzz page. When everyone has finished, you'll have a chance to perform your commercial.**

Give trios time to finish their commercials, and then allow them to perform their creative projects. Encourage their efforts.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■


Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what to put in your commercial?
- How do regular commercials exaggerate the truth to sell their products?
- Did any of you exaggerate to make your commercial more appealing?  
Explain.
- How can we make sure we're coming to God with true worship?

Say: **God desires our worship, but there can be a big difference between what we see on the outside and true worship. Jesus saw that when he went to the Temple. ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP, and that means we worship God from the heart. Let's take a moment to worship God from our hearts. As we sing this song, kneel before God in worship. You may lift your hands to him or simply close your eyes as you sing. Whatever you do, do it in sincere worship.**

Hand out lyrics sheets and sing "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 4 on the CD).

 **Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.**





For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## A Healthy Serving of Worship

### What You’ll Do

Form groups of four.

Say: **Sometimes when you go to a restaurant you find special meal deals—food and drink items that are packaged together for a good price. Today you’re in charge of our special “worship menu.” On your Bible Buzz pages, you’ll find “The Full-of-Zeal Meal Deal Worship Menu” to fill out. You’ll have a passage of Scripture to use to put together worship attitudes and actions that demonstrate the kind of worship God desires.**

Distribute Bibles as needed, and assign Romans 12 to half the groups and Exodus 20:1-17 to the other half. After groups are finished, have them share their menus with everyone.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you look for when you were putting together your worship menus?**
- **Were there specific things about worship that you like better than others? Explain.**
- **The word *zeal* means “excitement.” What things excite you about worship?**
- **How can we make sure we’re not just going through the motions with worship?**



### A Healthy Serving of Worship Supplies

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Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens





## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

Say: **The Bible tells us what God wants from our worship, but it's also okay to just let it come from the heart. The thing to remember is that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP—not the marketplace mentality that Jesus found in the Temple.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how God wants our sincere worship this week. For your Daily Challenge this week, choose a menu item from your worship menu and commit to worshipping God in that way.**

Make sure you commit to the challenge as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Today we looked at how people had lost their way when it came to worshipping God. And Jesus' actions show us that it's a big deal. Let's remember that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about how God wants sincere worship. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families! Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer by having each preteen repeat aloud what they've chosen from the menu. Then ask God to help them follow through on sincerely worshipping him this week.





**Lyrics** ■■■■

## Let Us Bow Down in Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)

Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

"Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**OK**  
TO COPY



# Temple

**1**

“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’ ” (John 2:13-16).

**2**

“His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ Then the Jews demanded of him, ‘What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days’ ” (John 2:17-19).

**3**

“The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken” (John 2:20-22).

**OK**  
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Illustrated by Von Glitschka.