



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 3: Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Scripture

Matthew 21:12-17
 Mark 11:15-19
 Luke 19:45-48

Memory Verse

I will praise You as long as I live. I will lift up my hands when I pray to You. Psalm 63:4 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus is God.

Understand that God deserves our worship (prayer and praise).

Learn that, as a believer, your body is the temple of God's Holy Spirit.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

We are taking a look at the story of Jesus' crucifixion, His death on the cross not as punishment for His own wrong doing, but as payment for my sins and your sins. We find ourselves about a week away from that death. So far, we have learned about a woman's love for the One who would be her Savior and how she worshipped Him. We have also looked at the welcome given to Jesus when He entered Jerusalem.

The Bible tells us that Jesus went to the temple. For the Jewish people two thousand years ago when Jesus lived, there was only one place to go and make the offerings (sacrifices) that God required. That place was the temple and it was in Jerusalem. The temple had been built on one of the four hills that surround Jerusalem and could be easily seen. The hill that the temple had been built on was called Mt. Moriah.

The temple itself was built with walls around it on all sides. It had courtyards around it and within for the Gentiles, for women, for the priests, etc. The temple also had many gates that led to it from the outside.

When Jesus entered the temple area, what should have looked like a place to worship God actually looked like the local market! There were tables set up and men were exchanging money. There were animals everywhere and men were buying and selling them for the sacrifices the people would make. Jesus "began chasing out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He would not allow anyone to carry items for sale through the temple courtyards." (Mark 11:15-16 NirV)

Jesus was furious and it was okay. He told the people why He was so mad. Quoting the Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, Jesus said, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be called a house where people can pray.' — (Isaiah 56:7) But you are making it a 'den for robbers.'" — (Jeremiah 7:11) (Matthew 21:13 NirV)

Then, while Jesus was still in the temple, He healed blind and disabled people who came to Him. The children in the temple area did what the inhabitants of Jerusalem had already done, they shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matthew 21:15 NirV) Unlike the adults in the temple who were interested in their businesses and their money, these children couldn't help but praise Jesus.

As we have seen in our last two lessons, when someone acknowledges Jesus for who He is, the Promised One from God, there are others who are angered. It was the chief priests and teachers of the law and the religious lead-

Application

We saw two different kinds of people in our lesson. Both of them were in the temple. One group went to the temple thinking of themselves and their money making business. The other group went to the temple to pray and praise God.

Let's think a minute. Where are you right now? You are at church. You may not be in a big, beautiful building; in fact, you may be meeting outside. No matter where you are physically, someone has been teaching you from the Bible, God's Word.

Why are you here? Are you here just to meet with friends and visit? Are you here to get a snack? Are you here just to get out of your own house? Or, are you here to pray to God and to praise Him?

Spend a moment talking to God and being completely honest with Him. Ask Him for forgiveness, if necessary.

ers who were angry at Jesus. They started looking for a way to kill Jesus. It was difficult though, because "the people were paying close attention to His words." (Luke 19:48 NIV) "The whole crowd was amazed at His teaching." (Mark 11:18 NIV)

That evening, Jesus and His disciples left the city of Jerusalem. They returned to Bethany and spent the night there.

As you were listening to the lesson, did you wonder how Jesus had the right to run people out of the temple? Did you think, "Who does He think He is?"

Well, let's think about that. Who is Jesus? (Allow your students the opportunity to respond.) Jesus is God's Son. (Mark 1:1) Jesus is the Lamb of God and Messiah. (John 1:35-41) Jesus is God. (John 1:1)

During the time of the Old Testament, God actually lived in the temple in the form of a cloud. He lived to the rear of the main temple building, behind a very thick curtain in what is called the Holy of Holies. God no longer lived in the temple, but that is where He was to still be worshipped. Jesus had every right to run the money changers and business men out of the temple. He is God!

Do you know where God chooses to live now? Yes, He inhabits heaven and works and moves over His creation, but the Bible shares something else with us. "Don't you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is in you. You have received him from God. You do not belong to yourselves. Christ has paid the price for you. So use your bodies in a way that honors God." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV) God, in the form of the Holy Spirit lives in you if you have chosen to give your life to Him. And just as you wouldn't think of doing something awful to your church building, or even at church, you should be very careful how you treat your own body. Will you commit today to use your body in a way that honors God?

You may be saying, "but I haven't given my life to God. I can't do that." You can start today. Let's talk.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus' Parables



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a picture of Jesus cleansing the temple.

After Mary poured the sweet smelling perfume on His head and feet, Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem. Once He was there, He went to church, called “temple.”

The church that Jesus went to was special; there was only one. When Jesus traveled, there wasn’t a church on every corner or even in every town. On special holidays, everyone was expected to go to church. It was the week before one of those special holidays.

When Jesus went inside the church there were a lot of people there. There was a problem, though. Many of the people had set up tables and benches. They were exchanging money. They were buying and selling animals.

Jesus didn’t like this. It made Jesus mad. He was mad because God’s house, the church, should be a place where people come to pray to God and to praise Him for how wonderful He is. That’s not what most of the people were doing.

Jesus chased the people out of the temple. He turned over their tables and benches.

Once they were gone, Jesus healed people who were blind and disabled.

The children in the temple knew what to do . . . they shouted about how wonderful Jesus is!

How about you? Did you come to church today to sing happy songs about Jesus and to pray? Or did you come to church to play and distract others?

Tell God you are sorry if you came to church to play. Then sing or shout and tell Him He is a great God!



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage your students to trace their hands on construction paper. On the left hand, print the first phrase of the memory verse. Print the second phrase on the right hand. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Make miniature, edible temples from graham crackers and icing.
- Bring a model of the temple complex if you have one available.
- Act out the story with your students.
- Sing praise songs.
- Find Jerusalem on a map. Then, on a detailed map of Jerusalem, find the four hills surrounding the city. Find the temple mount on the map. Provide a detailed drawing of the temple complex. Talk about the walls around it, the courtyards and the Holy of Holies.

**I will praise
you as long as
I live.**

**I will lift up
my hands
when I pray
to you.**

Psalm 63:4

Trace the letters.

Jesus

cleansed

the temple.

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture Refernces:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

P O T O J E R U S A L E M M I
C C H A R G M E L P M E T Z M
U C O S A A O R L I S E D H O
K K U D B H U K I H Y H X H U
T J S R E G N A H C Y E N O M
J N E A F H T S R F O S J L T
G O O Y U T M S U O M S S Y O
Y N F T T E O M O L U E A O F
E X P R T B R Q F S M E N F O
S U R U Z A I N E R D L I H C
L N A O D O A J R W I S A O I
J Y Y C I G H B F E D U S L V
C A E J P A S R U R L S O I E
N P R A I S E L B S I E H E S
H E A D A N J F C H A S E S J

JERUSALEM

FOUR HILLS

MOUNT MORIAH

TEMPLE

COURTYARDS

HOLY OF HOLIES

JESUS

CHASES

MONEY CHANGERS

HOUSE OF PRAYER

CHILDREN

PRAISE



Word Search

P	O	T	O	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	M	I
C	C	H	A	R	G	M	E	L	P	M	E	T	Z	M
U	C	O	S	A	A	O	R	L	I	S	E	D	H	O
K	K	U	D	B	H	U	K	I	H	Y	H	X	H	U
T	J	S	R	E	G	N	A	H	C	Y	E	N	O	M
J	N	E	A	F	H	T	S	R	F	O	S	J	L	T
G	O	O	Y	U	T	M	S	U	O	M	S	S	Y	O
Y	N	F	T	T	E	O	M	O	L	U	E	A	O	F
E	X	P	R	T	B	R	Q	F	S	M	E	N	F	O
S	U	R	U	Z	A	I	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C
L	N	A	O	D	O	A	J	R	W	I	S	A	O	I
J	Y	Y	C	I	G	H	B	F	E	D	U	S	L	V
C	A	E	J	P	A	S	R	U	R	L	S	O	I	E
N	P	R	A	I	S	E	L	B	S	I	E	H	E	S
H	E	A	D	A	N	J	F	C	H	A	S	E	S	J

JERUSALEM

FOUR HILLS

MOUNT MORIAH

TEMPLE

COURTYARDS

HOLY OF HOLIES

JESUS

CHASES

MONEY CHANGERS

HOUSE OF PRAYER

CHILDREN

PRAISE



Preschool Word Search

R I F O J E S U S R S U
B U Y A N D S E L L Y E
F A J T R B E C O A T S
F T R A C H A S E H O N
S A K M A N G E R Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
G P R A Y N C H E S O E
D A B M K J O S N S U S
M I D T H S V E I K S W
D E A J E P R A I S E N
L A M B O F G O D O P J
J E S C H U R C H R I T

JESUS

CHURCH

BUY AND SELL

CHASE

PRAY

PRAISE



Preschool Word Search

R I F O J E S U S R S U
B U Y A N D S E L L Y E
F A J T R B E C O A T S
F T R A C H A S E H O N
S A K M A N G E R Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
G P R A Y N C H E S O E
D A B M K J O S N S U S
M I D T H S V E I K S W
D E A J E P R A I S E N
L A M B O F G O D O P J
J E S C H U R C H R I T

JESUS

CHURCH

BUY AND SELL

CHASE

PRAY

PRAISE