

LESSON 8

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

JOHN 2:13-22



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD DESIRES PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP FROM THEIR HEARTS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: old newspaper; large trash bag

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 86)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 8—one for each child; markers or crayons

Add a Little Drama

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small table
- ✓ about 300 coins of various denominations
- ✓ a stack of miscellaneous papers
- ✓ a whip made of braided cords or rope
- ✓ a large sheet to be Jesus costume

Paper Airplanes from a Bible

SUPPLIES: brand new Bible; scissors

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about how Jesus cleansed the temple.

Prior to class strew the classroom with balled up sheets of newspaper. The more you have the better. Place a large trash bag on top of a cabinet or out of view to use later. Arrange for a helper to be on hand to greet the children so you can make a late entrance once all of the children have arrived.

When you arrive, act surprised that the room is such a mess. Your helper can say she doesn’t know who made the mess but that it’s OK and won’t bother anyone.

Object to the paper and tell everyone that a classroom is for learning. Pull out the trash bag and pick up the paper. Show that you are mildly upset but don’t overdue the anger. Instead, use this as an opportunity to talk about all the important things a classroom is for and how it should not be cluttered with paper.

Your helper can then point out how what you did was like your Bible story today about the time when Jesus cleaned up the temple.

Show excitement and then transition to the story time. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 86, “Jesus Cleanses the Temple,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What happened in this story?
(*Jesus cleansed the temple.*)

- What kind of house did Jesus say the temple should be?
(He said the temple should be a house of prayer not a house for buying and selling.)
- What did Jesus do?
(Jesus turned over the money tables and drove the animals out of the temple.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How long did it take to build the temple?
(forty-six years)
- Do you think the Jews would be surprised to hear that Jesus could raise the temple in three days if it were torn down?
(Yes, they were surprised. They didn't believe that Jesus was telling the truth.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Only after his resurrection did Jesus' disciples understand what he was talking about when he told the Jews that he could rebuild the temple in three days (John 2:22). People hurled insults at Jesus during his crucifixion, mocking what he said about the temple (Matthew 27:39-40).

Jesus' resurrection validates his ministry claims. His resurrection ultimately proves he is Lord over all, including life and death. The resurrection proves that Jesus was the Son of God and that his sacrificial death on the cross broke the curse of death and sin for all who put their faith in him (Romans 6:4; 8:11).

- When did the disciples figure out that Jesus was really talking about himself and his resurrection?

(The disciples didn't figure it out until Jesus died and rose on the third day.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 8—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is happening in the picture?

(Jesus is coming out of the tomb after his resurrection.)

- When Jesus said he could rebuild the temple in three days, what was he talking about?

(He didn't mean the temple made of stones. Jesus was talking about his body; Jesus knew that he was going to rise from the dead on the third day after they crucified him.)

Add a Little Drama

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small table
- ✓ about 300 coins of various denominations in a bag
- ✓ a stack of miscellaneous papers
- ✓ a whip made of braided cords or rope
- ✓ a large sheet to be Jesus costume

Dress up like Jesus and act out the scene in the temple. Set some coins up on the table, along with the money bag and the miscellaneous papers. Tell the story

of what Jesus did and use the whip in pantomime as you retell the story. Avoid overdoing angry emotions and take a more serious posture when playing Jesus. When you get to the part about the money changers, turn over the table and then empty the money bag on the floor.

Turn to the children and explain that people should not buy and sell in the temple, but that it should be a place where people pray (Luke 19:45).

Ask the children the following questions:

■ **Why was it OK for Jesus to overturn the tables?**

(Jesus was God and he could tell the people what they could and could not do in his house—the temple.)

■ **Why were animals at the temple?**

(People would buy animals to sacrifice for their sins so that God would forgive them.)

■ **Do we still kill animals today to take away our sin?**

(No. Explain to the children that Jesus died on the cross and his death takes away all the sin of all the people who trust in him.)

Paper Airplanes from a Bible

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ brand new Bible
- ✓ scissors

Show the children your brand new Bible. Then tell the class that you were trying to think of a great way to use your new Bible and you came up with one that you want to get their opinion on.

Tell them you thought of tearing out the pages to make paper airplanes. Pretend like you are going to rip a section out of your Bible and ask them if they think that is a good idea. (They should all object and say no.) Then say, “Of course, I would ruin the pages if I tore them out. I should use scissors!” Pick up the scissors and ask the class again if cutting pages out of your Bible is a good idea. (Again they should object.)

Then take the time to connect the object lesson to the story. It would be wrong to use God's Word in the wrong way, just like it was wrong for the people to turn God's temple, a place of worship, into a marketplace.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

PLEASE NOTE: The coloring sheet for this lesson is designed to show Jesus' resurrection as a foreshadowing of what Jesus was referring to when he said to the moneychangers, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

LESSON 8 - JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

