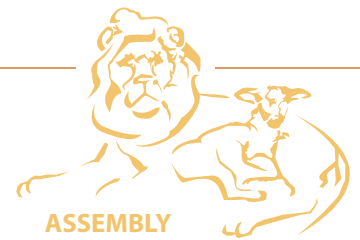


JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 2:13-22



ASSEMBLY

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

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

Act out the scene for the children. Set some coins up on the table along with the papers and other coins in a money bag. Tell the story of what Jesus did and use the whip in a mime fashion 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 be buying and selling in the temple, but that it should be a place where people pray, see Luke 19:45.

Ask the children the following questions:

- Why was it okay for Jesus to overturn the tables? (Jesus was God and He could tell the people what they should be doing and what they should not be doing at the temple.)
- Why did they have animals at the temple? (People would buy the 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.)

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FORTY-SIX YEARS IN THREE DAYS

Supplies

a large supply of building blocks

The building blocks simply become an object lesson as you explain the story. You can build them together a bit before class and add to the structure as you speak and even crash the blocks down when you get to the place in the story that mentions destroying the temple and rebuilding it in three days.

Explain to the children that the temple was the place where the Israelites worshipped God and that it had been built a total of three times. The first time by Solomon, the second time in the days of Ezra and the third time it was rebuilt just before Jesus was born. As you talk, put blocks together. In fact, the temple in Jesus' day was still not completely finished. At that time the majority of the work was done and had taken 46 years to complete.

Tell the children that Jesus told the leaders if they were to tear down the temple He could rebuild it in three days. The people thought He was talking about the temple walls. They wondered how this could be since it had taken many hundreds of men years and years to build. But, Jesus was not talking about the temple building. He was really talking about something else.

- What was Jesus really saying He would rebuild in three days? (Jesus would rise from the dead in three days after dying on the cross.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The disciples didn't know what Jesus was talking about when He told the Jews that He could rebuild the temple in three days. But, after Jesus rose from the dead they remembered, see John 2:22. Jesus was referring to His resurrection when He said that in three days He would raise the temple.

It is Jesus' resurrection that validates His ministry claims. It is His resurrection that ultimately proves He is Lord over all, including life and death. The resurrection is what proves that His sacrificial death on the cross ends in victory for us all, see Romans 6:4 and Romans 8:11.