

Lesson 67: Jesus Clears Merchants from the Temple

[John 2:13-22](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/NYLfSy6D9E0>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/Z3a6nSZuK3k>

Worship Theme: God wants sincere worship.

Memory Verse: "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. When the Spirit of the Lord <https://youtu.be/RODHIMCRzw4>
2. King of Kings <https://youtu.be/CPBqHYVwm3M>
3. Lord, I Worship You <https://youtu.be/1C4guXZFdAw>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: It Is Ruined!

Materials Needed: Balloons for each child



1. Give each child a balloon and have them blow it up and tie it.
2. Tell them that the balloon is very important for them and that they need to protect it.
3. How would they feel if it gets ruined?
4. Have all the children stand up and ask them to pop other people's balloon while protecting their own. (Children can hug the balloon or teacher can choose to tie the balloon to the wrist or ankle of the children)
5. Give them 1 minute.
6. For those whose balloon popped, ask them how they felt when their balloon was ruined.

Introduction:

Think of something that is really important to you. It can be your favorite toy, clothes, shoes, or even a favorite place. What if something you cared about gets ruined? What if your mom throws away your toy? Or what if your brother/sister ruins your favorite clothes? Or what if someone ruins your favorite place by putting trash inside of it? How would you feel? Today, we will learn about how Jesus felt when a place he loved, the church, became like a market.

Bible Story:

Many people traveled a LONG way to come to the temple. The temple was usually VERY crowded! Not only were there a lot of people, there were also many animals. Animals in the temple? Why would that be? Because God's people made animal sacrifices in the temple for the forgiveness of their sins. Since most people traveled a long way to the temple, it was difficult to bring animals along to sacrifice, so there were lambs and doves for sale at the temple.

One day Jesus went to a temple. But Jesus saw the sellers taking so much money from the people for their sacrifices. They were forcing the poor people to pay the high prices just so they could worship God with their sacrifices. This was not right! This is not how you act in the temple, and this is not what you do with sacrifices to God!

He told the people that they were abusing and misusing God's house instead of worshipping God. He told them "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" and made a whip to scatter the animals and turned over the money tables. Well, some of the people there weren't too happy, since Jesus was disrupting their money-making business. Who was this Jesus? Why did it matter what he thought? Why do you think it mattered to Jesus?

Jesus knew more than anyone the power and importance of a sacrifice. He was about to be a sacrifice himself on the cross, and he didn't want his sacrifice to be meaningless like these marketplace sacrifices were. If they saw his sacrifice on the cross as just another way to make money, or a careless request for forgiveness, they will not be able to enter into heaven and live with God. Jesus wanted his sacrifice on the cross to mean so much more! This was the only way these people were going to be able to live in heaven with Him.

The most important thing to Jesus was that we live in heaven with him one day. And in order to get there, we have to accept his sacrifice on the cross which forgives us of all of our sins. It's a free gift, and all we have to do is accept it. And because of this free gift, we worship him with our sincere hearts in the Spirit and in truth!

Questions to discuss:

1. What were people doing in the temple that angered Jesus? (the sellers were selling animals at a high price to make money instead of helping people worship God)
2. What did Jesus do? (Jesus made a whip to scatter the animals and overturned the money tables)
3. Why should we worship God? (because he gave us a free gift of salvation by faith)

Game: Clean the Temple Relay

Materials Needed: brooms and crumpled paper



1. Divide the children into 2 groups and have half the group stand on the other side of the room.
2. Give each team a broom and one crumpled paper
3. Each child has to sweep the crumpled paper to their team member on the other side of the room. Once the person on the other side gets the broom and the crumpled paper, they have to sweep it back, and continue to relay until everyone gets a turn.
4. The group that finishes first will win the game. Explain to the children that the church, the house of God, must be kept clean as they come to the church with a clean heart.

Memory Verse:

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Craft: Jesus Clears Merchants from the Temple - Coloring Page

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Sometimes, we come to church without remembering whom we are there to worship. Some people go to church to meet their friends or just to have fellowship. We must remember that God deserves to be worshiped because he sent Jesus to die in our place so that we can enter into heaven to live with him for eternity. Think about your attitude when you go to church. Ask God to renew your heart so that you can worship God in the Spirit and in truth and be role models to young children.

Jesus Clears Merchants from the Temple



Memory Verse: _____
