

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Cleans Out the Temple

John 2:13-25

### Younger Verse

"Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" John 2:19

### Older Verse

"Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" John 2:19 (CEV)

### Bible Story

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.

"Stamp, stamp." "Swish, swish." The oxen are restless.

"Coo, coo." The doves are singing.

"Baa, Baa." The sheep are bleating.

"Clink, clink." The coins make sounds as they are dropped.

What do you think is happening? Where could you hear these sounds? In the market, maybe? Would you ever think of hearing these sounds at church? But that is exactly where Jesus heard them.

After Jesus went to the wedding in Cana, Galilee, he and his mother and his brothers and his disciples stayed in the town of Capernaum for a while. Then, Jesus had to go to Jerusalem\*. It was almost time for a celebration called "Passover." Everyone was expected at the temple in Jerusalem for the Passover. The temple was their church. And the Passover was a celebration to remember what God had done for the Jewish people when He rescued them from Egypt. We read in the book of Exodus that God's people cried out to Him to be rescued from slavery and God prepared Moses to lead them. God performed miraculous signs in Egypt to punish the Egyptians so that they would let God's people leave Egypt. For the last sign, God's people would need to kill a lamb. They would eat the lamb, but before that, they would put the lamb's blood around their doors. This would protect them when God punished the Egyptians. God would "pass over" them and they would be safe and could then leave Egypt for the land God had promised them.

This celebration is why the people in Jesus' day needed to buy animals. They would sacrifice (kill) a lamb, or whatever animal they could afford to remember those other sacrifices. Since everyone had to be there, people came from many different places. Some came from across town. Others came from many miles away. For those who came from far away, it was difficult to bring animals with them. They waited until they arrived in Jerusalem to buy their animals.

\*See Exodus 23:17, 12:14,25

### Lesson Goals

Introduce Passover.  
Introduce the concept of our bodies being the temple of God.  
Stress the need for living in a way that glorifies God.

When all of these people came for the celebration they also paid a tax to the temple. To buy and sell things at the market, the people used Roman coins but to pay the temple tax, they needed Jewish money. They needed their money changed just like I would if I went to another country that does not use dollars.

Because there were people who needed to buy an animal and who needed to change their money, the temple leaders had an idea. They had begun renting out spaces around the temple for selling animals. And they were making money as they exchanged Roman coins for Jewish coins as well as checking to make sure the animals being sold were good animals, clean and healthy. Instead of focusing on God at church, they had a business going. They were interested in making money!

When Jesus arrived at the temple for the Passover, and when he heard the stamp-stamping of oxen hooves, the cooing of doves, the bleating of sheep and the clinking of money, He did something no one expected Him to do. Jesus made a whip out of some cords that were lying around and he ran out the oxen and the sheep. He made the vendors take the doves away. He poured out the coins of the money changers and turned over their tables. Jesus was upset because these men were making God's house, the temple, a place of business! This upset Jesus because He knew that the temple was a place to worship God and talk to Him.

The leaders asked Jesus what permission (authority) He had to do this. Jesus told them "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will build it again." They thought he meant the building, which took years to build. Jesus was talking about his body. He was explaining that when they killed Him, He would rise from the dead after three days! And John tells us that after this happened, they remembered what Jesus had said, and they remembered what was written in the Bible about Him, and they believed. They understood about Jesus because they knew what the Bible said.

Do you know that the Bible says "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God." If you, like the disciples, have believed in Jesus, then you too, are a temple. You are a temple because God, the Holy Spirit, lives in you. And just like the temple in Jesus' day did not need to be a place of business, we should be careful where we go, what we do, and what we listen to because God lives in us. If you have never believed in Jesus, will you believe, like the disciples, based on what the Bible tells us? God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. If you have any questions, please talk to me after class.

### **Memory Verse Activities**

On poster board, draw a very simple temple. (A rectangular base, triangular top and cylinder shaped columns. See diagram on activity page.) Write phrases from the Bible verse on each shape. Have students practice, by constructing a Bible Verse Temple.

### **Prayer Time**

Use this time to thank God for giving us a place to learn about Him. Thank Him for sending His Son as an example of how we are to live.

### **Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 8  
Nicodemus Comes to Jesus at Night  
John 3:1-21

# Preschool Lesson

## Jesus went to Church

Once your preschoolers have come in and are seated, divide them into four groups. Practice the following sounds, one at a time, one sound per group, explaining what makes each sound. Once your preschoolers understand, have them all make their sounds at the same time.

Oxen - "Stamp, stamp." (Stomping of feet.)

Doves - "Coo, coo."

Sheep - "Baa, Baa."

Money Changers - "Clink, clink." (Keys would be good for this sound.)

Are these sounds you hear when you come to church?

Jesus heard these sounds one day when He went to church. Jesus knew what the sounds were. Men were selling animals for a special celebration at church. Others were changing Roman money into Jewish money so the people could use their Jewish coins in church. Those things sound like nice things to do, don't they? It sounds like these men wanted to help others by selling what they needed.

Jesus knew better. Jesus knew what these men were really doing. Jesus knew that what they really wanted was not to help others, but to make money for themselves. And making money is not a bad thing, but these men were making money at church when they should have been learning about God.

Jesus was very upset with these men. He took cords (or ropes) and tied them together to make a whip. Then He made the animals and the people who were selling them leave. Jesus poured out the coins and turned over the tables of the money changers.

Then Jesus told them that the church, God's house, was not a place for business. Jesus told them that when they came to church, they should come to pray. These men were not supposed to come to church thinking about making money. They were to come to church to learn about, and to think about, and to talk to GOD.

Do you come to church to learn about God? Let's tell Him so.

Pray: God, thank you for church. Thank you for giving me a place to learn about you.

# Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today. Passover pictures would also be good.
- Make paper plate masks of oxen, sheep, doves, money changers and Jesus. Have your students retell the story wearing their masks.
- Play charades. Write the names of animals on strips of paper, fold them and place them in a bag. One at a time, have students draw out a strip of paper. Then, give them the opportunity to act out their animal. (You might also try modifying this game by having your students make the animal sounds rather than acting out each animal.)
- Play “Who Am I.” Prepare by printing the names of various animals on index cards. When you are ready to play, tape one index card on the back of each student. Play consists of students asking yes/no questions of other students to determine what animal they are. For example: A student, trying to determine who they are, might ask, “Am I green?” or “Do I have wings?” Questions continue until each child knows which animal they represent.
- Make coin rubbings.
- Allow students to create their own coins. Supply them with paper, cut into circles or with the circles drawn onto the paper. Allow them to be creative with their coins.
- Diagram for Memory Verse Activity:

