

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Visits the Temple

**Matthew 21:12-17**

Younger Verse

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

Older Verse

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus told the people not to sell things in the Temple  
Understand why God did not like what the people were doing  
Recognize that Jesus showed His authority as God’s Son

Welcome Time

Sometimes we do things for the wrong reasons. We may go somewhere or do something to make ourselves look good. But God wants us to have the right attitude when we come to His house.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We learned last week that Jesus entered Jerusalem. A large crowd gathered and worshipped Him. Do you remember what they put in Jesus’ path? (palm branches and coats) Many people believed that Jesus really was the Messiah sent from God to save them. But others did not believe.

After Jesus had gone into Jerusalem, He went to the Temple. This was the large area where the Jewish people worshipped God. Jesus knew that the people were doing things that God didn’t like. Some people were trying to make money inside the temple. They had cages with animals and birds. They knew that the Jewish people had to bring animals to sacrifice to God. They wanted to make it convenient for the people and sell them the animals inside God’s house.

This was NOT pleasing to God! God wanted His house to be used to pray and worship Him, not to make money. It was time for Jesus to let these people know! So Jesus began to turn over the tables of the merchants. Then Jesus told them that God wanted His house to be a place of prayer, but they had turned it into a house of robbers!

**Jesus was speaking for God when He said this.** God knew that these people needed to be stopped. They were turning people away from *true* worship of God. **Jesus sent a strong message from God: Treat God’s house with respect. Make sure your heart is right with God and you are there to worship *Him* and connect with *Him*.**

**As we know, God’s house is *anywhere* people come together and worship God.** It can be in an apartment, clubhouse, or even outside! But God knows our hearts, and He wants us to be there for the right reason—to lift Him up and connect with Him.

While Jesus was still in the Temple, some blind and lame people came to Him, and He healed them. Many of the people and children began to worship Him there. But the reli-

gious leaders did not like that. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah. So they thought it was wrong for people to worship Jesus.

Jesus answered them by quoting a Bible verse: "You have taught children and infants to give you praise." By saying this, Jesus was letting them know that He was God's Son. That was the reason people worshipped Him.

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Jesus made it clear to the people that He came from God and that He was God. God sent Jesus to earth to make a way for us to be right with Him. Jesus died on the Cross and rose again so that we can have eternal life and be with God forever in Heaven.

If we believe in Jesus, we should want to worship Him. We need to make sure that our hearts are right with God. We do this by confessing our sins to Him and asking Him to forgive us. If you have never asked Jesus to come into your life, that is the first step to being right with God. We would love to talk with you about it.

#### Review Questions

1. Why was God not happy with the people selling animals in the Temple? (They were turning people away from worshipping Him.)
2. What did Jesus say God's house was supposed to be for? (a house of prayer)
3. Why did the religious leaders get mad? (People and children were worshipping Jesus in the Temple)
4. What should we do to get our hearts right with God? (Ask Him into our heart; confess our sins)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for the church where we can worship Him. Pray that we will be pleasing to Him when we worship.

#### Life Application

Sometimes, we think we can hide our true thoughts from others. We might have a bad attitude on the inside, but pretend to be all right on the outside.

God knows what is going on inside of us. And the best part is, He cares! He wants us to be okay. He doesn't want us to hide our worries and problems from Him. We can talk to Him about everything, and He can help us.

Another thing we cannot hide from God is our sin. He sees it all. But He still loves us. He just wants us to tell Him about it and ask for forgiveness. Then, when we go to God's house, we can be happy to be there and not worried about feeling guilty. That is the way we can say, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

Planning for Next Lesson  
The story of the evil workers  
Matthew 21:33-46

## Preschool Lesson for Jesus Visits the Temple

We learned last week that Jesus entered Jerusalem. A large crowd gathered and worshipped Him. Do you remember what they put in Jesus' path? (palm branches and coats)

After Jesus had gone into Jerusalem, He went to the Temple. This was the large area where the Jewish people worshipped God. Jesus knew that the people were doing things that God didn't like. Some people were trying to make money inside the temple. They had cages with animals and birds. (Have kids make bird sounds.) They knew that the Jewish people had to bring animals to give as a gift to God. They wanted to make it convenient for the people and sell them the animals inside God's house.

This was NOT pleasing to God! (Have everyone frown or do the thumbs down sign.) God wanted His house to be used to pray and worship Him, not to make money. It was time for Jesus to let these people know! So Jesus began to turn over the tables of the merchants. Then Jesus told them that God wanted His house to be a place of prayer, but they had turned it into a house of robbers!

**As we know, God's house is *anywhere* people come together and worship God.** It can be in an apartment, clubhouse, or even outside! But God knows our hearts, and He wants us to be there for the right reason—to lift Him up and talk to Him.

While Jesus was still in the Temple, some blind and lame people came to Him, and He healed them. Many of the people and children began to worship Him there. But the religious leaders did not like that. They didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah. So they thought it was wrong for people to worship Jesus.

Jesus answered them by quoting a Bible verse: "You have taught children and infants to give you praise." By saying this, Jesus was letting them know that He was God's Son. That was the reason people worshipped Him.

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Jesus made it clear to the people that He came from God and that He was God. God sent Jesus to earth to make a way for us to be right with Him. Jesus died on the Cross and rose again so that we can have eternal life and be with God forever in Heaven.

Pray that we will have happy hearts when we come into God's house.

Sing, "He Has Made Me Glad." It talks about entering God's house with joy and thankfulness.

## **Hands-on Activities for Jesus Visits the Temple**

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.

Let the children make coin rubbings. Place a coin under a piece of paper. Rub with a crayon or pencil to see the indentions. Talk about the importance of loving God more than loving money.

Ask the kids if they think of their church as a place to pray. Ask them how it can be improved. Think about ways to be a church of prayer.

Sing or play the song “Heart of Worship.” Teach it to the kids. You may want to copy the words for the older students. Talk with them about how God sees what is in our hearts and minds. We cannot hide from Him!