



# Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

First- and second-graders love to please adults. They love to help around the house, sing songs, put on plays, and color pictures for adults. But when it comes to God, young children may feel at a loss about how to please him. Use this lesson to show kids that God is worthy of worship and praise and that he welcomes any act of worship from a child, whether it's a song, a picture, a prayer, or an action.



### ► Bible Point

God wants sincere worship.

### Key Verse

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will worship God and tell others about him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>What a Mess!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Clean up a messy room, and discuss preparing their hearts for worship.	newspaper	Use the newspaper to create a mess in your room. You can also turn chairs or tables upside-down or put out toys or other objects.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Jesus Clears the Temple</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Perform a fun skit to show what happened when Jesus visited the Temple.	Bible, CD player, scissors, 1 foam cup per child, pencils, piece of rope, hat <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, gold foil, “Jesus Clears the Temple” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut the gold foil into 1x1-inch squares.
	<b>Ways to Worship</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and worship God.	Bible, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

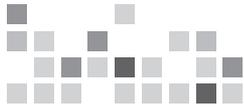
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Clean Hearts</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write sins on paper hearts, and pray for forgiveness.	My Bible Fun, pencils, erasers	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>It's About Time</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make watches.	My Bible Fun, coins from "Jesus Clears the Temple" activity, staplers, scissors	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





### What a Mess! Supplies

newspaper

### What a Mess! Easy Prep

Use the newspaper to create a mess in your room. You can also turn chairs or tables upside-down or put out toys or other objects.

### Jesus Clears the Temple Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
scissors  
1 foam cup per child  
pencils  
piece of rope  
hat

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus Clears the Temple" (track 4)  
gold foil  
"Jesus Clears the Temple" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Jesus Clears the Temple Easy Prep

Cut the gold foil into 1x1-inch squares.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### What a Mess!

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **What a mess we have here! Let's clean this place up before we can listen to the Bible and learn about God.** Have kids help you straighten up the room.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What went through your mind when you first walked into the room?
- What are you thinking now that the room is clean?
- Why can a messy room make us distracted?
- What things distract you from worshipping God?

Say: **We came here today to learn about God. But when our room was all messy, that distracted us, didn't it? Sometimes it's like that in our lives. Sometimes things clutter up our hearts and keep us from worshipping God. And ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** Today we'll hear about a time Jesus saw things cluttering up how people worshipped God.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Jesus Clears the Temple

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 2:13-22, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a time Jesus found people making a mess out of the Temple of God. The Temple is where the people went to worship God—it was their church.**

Show the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster, and let kids point out things on the poster that seem distracting to worshipping God. Then say: **The church leaders were selling animals and exchanging money. They told the people that they needed to buy these animals in order to worship God. There were so many rules to follow. This made Jesus angry**





because the church leaders were busy buying and selling in the house of God. They weren't teaching the people how to worship. Let's hear more about what happened.

Say: **We'll act out what happened to get a feel for how distracting a church like that could be. First, let's make some gold coins.** Give each child a foam cup, and evenly distribute the gold foil squares. Have kids tear or cut small foam circles from the cups. Have them wrap the foam circles in the gold foil to make coins. Show kids how to write their names on their coins. Then collect all the coins in the hat.

Say: **I'll play the CD, and as you listen, act out your part.** Let each child choose one of the following parts: Jesus, doves, cattle, sheep, a man selling cows, a man selling sheep, a woman selling doves, a woman wanting to buy some cows, and a woman wanting to buy some sheep.

Have the merchants sit at a table, the animals mill about on all fours near the table, and the buyers stand in front of the table. Have the child playing Jesus wait on the other side of the room. Give him or her a piece of rope to use as a whip. Place the gold coins the kids made on the table in front of the merchants.

Cue the CD to "Jesus Clears the Temple" (track 4 on the CD). Have kids act out their parts as the CD plays. Help kids as needed.

When the segment ends, work as a group to clean the room. Then have kids gather in a group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to participate in acting out what happened in the Temple?
- Is it hard for you to concentrate on certain things, like doing your homework, if you're surrounded by mess and clutter? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God deserves undistracted worship?

Say: **God's Temple in the Bible was a place of worship. God wanted the people to think only of him when they went to the Temple. He didn't want them to be worried about which animals to buy and how much money they had to spend. God wants our hearts to be places of worship, too. ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Just as God wanted his Temple to stay clean, he wants our hearts to be clean when we worship him.**

## Ways to Worship

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **We learned today that buying and selling in the Temple took the people's attention away from worshipping God. Our Key Verse today will help us understand how God wants us to worship him.** Open your Bible to Psalm 95:6, and show it to kids. Say: **Listen**



### Ways to Worship Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 5)





while I read it: “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6). Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **God is so awesome that he deserves our worship! Bowing and kneeling are just two ways to show God how great we think he is. Let’s do what the verse says.**

Lead kids first in bowing and then in kneeling. Have kids remain kneeling as you continue.

Say: **Another way is to sing to him. Let’s keep kneeling as we sing a worship song to God.** Hand out the lyrics pages. Then play “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 5 on the CD).

 **Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.**

**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.**  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.**

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking as you worshipped God by bowing, kneeling, and singing?**
- **Why do you think the Bible says to bow and kneel before God?**
- **What other ways can we show God how great we think he is?**

Say: **We can worship God by bowing and kneeling before him or singing to him. We can worship God in everything we do. There’s never a time we can’t worship God! When Jesus went to the Temple, he wanted the people to understand that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Let’s worship God with all our hearts this week.**



### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Clean Hearts

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Coming to God with clean, sincere hearts is just one way we can worship God.**

Distribute the Lesson 2 My Bible Fun pages. Give each child a pencil. Have kids each write inside the heart one or two ways they've disobeyed recently. Encourage them to draw symbols so they can keep their thoughts private. Kids might write about fighting with siblings, lying, or saying mean things to someone at school. Allow time.

Put kids in pairs. Say: **Jesus cleaned the Temple so the people could worship God, and we get our hearts ready to worship God, too! Let's take a minute to pray with our partners and ask God to forgive us for the sins we wrote down.**

Encourage kids to pray for each other, asking God to forgive them for the sins they wrote on their hearts.

Say: **When we ask God to forgive us, he always does. That means that these sins we wrote down are already forgiven! So let's clean our hearts, just as Jesus cleaned the Temple.**

Pass around several erasers, and let kids erase the sins they wrote.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking when you prayed for forgiveness and then erased the sins you wrote?**
- **Why do you want Jesus to clean your heart?**
- **Why does a clean heart help you worship God?**

Say: **Today we heard how Jesus cleaned out the Temple. In this activity, we learned that we can ask God to forgive us and worship him with clean, sincere hearts. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. God loves us no matter what, but we want clean hearts as we worship him.**



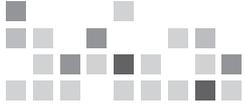
### Clean Hearts Supplies

My Bible Fun  
pencils  
erasers

### Clean Hearts Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.





### It's About Time Supplies

My Bible Fun  
coins from the "Jesus  
Clears the Temple"  
activity  
staplers  
scissors

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

## It's About Time

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We learned today that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Let's make watches to remind us that we can worship God anytime.**

Distribute the Lesson 2 pages from My Bible Fun. Have kids each cut out the "It's About Time" clock face and wristbands. As children are cutting, return to them the gold coins they made earlier. Set out staplers.

Have children work in pairs. Show kids how to staple the clock faces to the gold coins. Then have kids work together to staple their wristbands to their clock faces. Help them fit the bands around their wrists and staple the bands together loosely.

When everyone is wearing a watch, have kids kneel in a circle.

Say: **One way we can worship God with a sincere heart is by asking Jesus to change our hearts and make us more like him. God sent Jesus so that we can live with him forever, and he wants to forgive us and make our hearts clean. Let's remember this week that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Sing a song to God each night before you go to bed.**
- **Take home your gold coins. Use them to tell your family what Jesus did in the Temple.**
- **When you brush your teeth each day, ask God to give you a sincere heart to worship him.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.





## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **As we heard what Jesus did in the Temple, we learned that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. This week, show God you want to worship him sincerely by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about worshipping God sincerely. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, telling God you want to worship him sincerely. Have each child hold a coin and think of the things they asked forgiveness for in the “Clean Hearts” activity. Pray: **Thank you, God, for all you do for us. Help us remember this week that we can worship you anytime, anywhere. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Let Us Bow Down in Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)**

Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
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He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

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