



Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

Third- and fourth-graders can understand the difference between right and wrong, but they may have a more difficult time seeing the subtle shades between sincere and insincere actions. Use the account of Jesus clearing the Temple to show kids that God wants our sincere praise and worship, not just empty words and “going through the motions” behavior. Help them see that God deserves our heartfelt praise and that true worship will richly enhance their lives.



► 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

Children will make time to worship God this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	The Key Game <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Join in a chain to play a game of Follow the Leader.	keys on a chain	Clear the furniture from the center of the room, and set out chairs in a circle—1 less chair than the number of people in the group, including you.
2 Bible Exploration	Live From the Temple <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out a live report drama based on John 2:13-22.	Bible, pens Teacher Pack: “Live From the Temple” script 	Make 1 copy of the “Live From the Temple” script per child.
	Bow Down in Worship <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out the worship actions spoken of in the Key Verse, Psalm 95:6.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Worship Whirl Craft <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a craft as a way of worshipping God.	2 white paper plates per child, spray bottle of water, washable tempera paint in several colors, paintbrushes, newspaper	Cover a work area with newspaper, and set out paintbrushes and tempera paints.
	Worship Ways <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw a picture and write a letter of praise to God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, crayons, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



The Key Game Supplies

keys on a chain

The Key Game Easy Prep

Clear the furniture from the center of the room, and set out chairs in a circle—1 less chair than the number of people in the group, including you.

Live From the Temple Supplies

Bible
pens
Teacher Pack
“Live From the Temple”
script

Live From the Temple Easy Prep

Make 1 copy of the
“Live From the Temple”
script per child.

1 GETTING STARTED

The Key Game

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

When everyone has arrived, explain that you'll start a game by holding your key chain in one hand and by grabbing the hand of a child with your other hand. The child whose hand you grab will grab the hand of another child who will then join the chain. Continue in this manner until all the children are in the chain. All the while you'll lead the chain Follow-the-Leader style by moving under tables, lifting hands, walking in a squat, and so on. Then you'll drop your keys. When you do so, kids must quickly find a chair. The person without a chair is the leader for the next round. Play several rounds.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which part of this game did you enjoy most: forming a chain and following the leader or competing with others for chairs? Why?
- When we join together in worship, what are some ways we compete with each other?

Say: **God loves it when we worship him together. But when we worship, we need to make sure we worship God from our hearts. He wants to make sure it's not about looking the best or competing with others the way you competed for the chairs.**

► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP**—worship from our hearts. Let's explore more about worshipping together from our hearts.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Live From the Temple

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God loves it when we worship him together—and he wants our worship to be genuine, sincere, and undistracted. One Scripture account shows us just how seriously God takes our worship of him. As a way to explore this Bible passage, we're all going to take part in a skit. Four of us will have speaking parts, and the rest of us will be the crowd.**





Distribute a copy of the “Live From the Temple” script and a pen to each child. Ask for four willing kids to take the speaking parts. Give kids a couple of minutes to look over the script, marking their lines or sound effects. Then have the group perform the skit.

After kids have performed the skit, open your Bible and read aloud John 2:13-17.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was wrong with people selling things in the Temple?
- How could their actions affect people’s worship?

Read aloud John 2:18-22.

Ask:

- What does Jesus mean when he referred to himself as “the Temple”?
- How does this affect our worship?
- What are some things that distract us from sincere worship?
- What are some ways we can focus on God and give him our sincere worship?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** He wanted it from the people in the Bible, and he wants it from us. The people in the Temple let things get in the way of sincere worship. And we sometimes do that, too. There are many ways to worship God. Let’s explore what God’s Word says about that.


Bow Down in Worship

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse, Psalm 95:6, says: “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6). This verse helps us know that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Let’s act it out.**

As everyone says the verse together, have kids act out appropriate motions: For “bow down,” they can bow down; for “worship,” they can put their hands together as if they are praying; for “kneel,” everyone can kneel. Start by slowly saying and acting out the verse together. Then go faster until your group has said and acted out the verse as fast as you think is possible.

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with 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.



Bow Down in Worship Supplies

CD player
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)





**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 kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Our Key Verse** talks about bowing down and kneeling. What are other ways you can worship?
- How important is your posture to sincere worship?
- Why is it important to sincerely worship God?

Say: **There are many ways to worship God, and ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP—not for people to turn his place of worship into a marketplace. Let’s explore how we can worship God with sincere hearts.**

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Worship Whirl Craft Supplies

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2 white paper plates
per child
spray bottle of water
washable tempera paint
in several colors
paintbrushes
newspaper

Worship Whirl Craft Easy Prep

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Cover a work area with newspaper, and set out paintbrushes and tempera paints.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Worship Whirl Craft

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child two paper plates. Have children carefully drop a couple of paint drops onto one plate using a paintbrush. Then have children take turns lightly misting the other paper plate with water from the spray bottle. As kids spray water on their plates, be sure they don’t spray too much water and cause puddles; the plates should only be damp. Show children how to drop just a couple of paint drops in each color of tempera paint onto their plates. The colors should swirl around on their damp plates.





Talk With Kids

As the paints dry, lead a short discussion.

Ask:

- How was the paint with no water similar to the way we sometimes worship?
- What are some things that can make worship more sincere, similar to the way the water made the paint more exciting?
- What does sincere worship look like?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** Sincerity adds to our worship, just like the water added to our craft. When we worship God with sincere hearts and don't behave as if we were in a marketplace, we can feel close to God and learn more about his great love for us. Let's look at some ways we can sincerely worship God in our lives.

Worship Ways

What You'll Do

Distribute pens, crayons, and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Worship Ways" activity. Say: **We're going to try three different ways to worship God. As you try each one, keep your focus on sincerely worshipping him. The first one is worship through drawing.** Have kids work individually to draw a picture in the space provided, depicting themselves worshipping in some way. Allow everyone time to finish, and have willing kids talk about their drawings.

Say: **Next let's worship God through writing. Each of you will write a letter of praise to God just below the picture you drew on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. In your letter, write to God what you love most about him.**

After several minutes, have willing kids read their letters for the group.

Say: **Now let's worship God through music.** Once again, play the song "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). As the song plays, encourage kids to practice different ways to express worship. They may choose to sing along, clap, lift their hands, or kneel. Encourage them to do things to worship God that are fun to them.



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.)



Worship Ways Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

crayons

pens

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Us Bow

Down in Worship"

(Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)

Worship Ways Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





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 kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Talk about which way to worship felt the most natural to you, and why.
- During which way to worship was it the hardest for you to be sincere? Why do you think that is?
- What's one way you want to sincerely worship God this week?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** The people selling goods were keeping others from being able to sincerely worship. We can focus on God, and we'll be pleasing him with our worship.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Let's think of how we can remember this week that ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.**

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

- I will spend time worshipping you through music.
- I will try a new way to worship you every day.
- I will start a worship time at home with my family.

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 kids 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: **Jesus didn’t like seeing people turning his Father’s Temple into a marketplace.**
 ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP**—worship focused only on him. Let’s follow through on Daily Challenges this week to show God we sincerely want to worship him.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about sincere worship. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close by singing “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” one more time as a prayer. Encourage kids to close their eyes and kneel as they sing.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)



**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.
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.

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