



# Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple John 2:13-22

Children want to please their parents and teachers. The more they understand who God is, the more they will want to please him, too. As children learn that worship not only is important to God but also pleases him, it will make sense to them to worship him. Use this lesson to help your preschoolers understand why they worship God and the ways they can worship God.



► **Bible Point**  
Worship God.

**Key Verse**  
“I am not ashamed of the gospel” (Romans 1:16).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will worship God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Stand Up Tall</b> Do a cheer that reinforces the Key Verse.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Find out why Theo has a receipt.	CD player, Theo puppet, tape, receipt <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tape a receipt to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Crash Go the Tables</b> Learn motions, and use them while hearing what happened when Jesus went into the Temple.	Bible, CD player, 2 copies of the “Church” page (at the end of the lesson), glue, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Jesus Clears the Temple” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Cut 1 copy of the “Church” page into 8 to 12 puzzle-shaped pieces. 

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



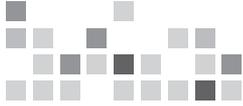


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: My Church</b> Draw pictures of themselves inside their church.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, safety scissors, crayons, glue sticks</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Shopping for a Snack</b> Buy and sell snacks in a pretend marketplace.</p>	<p>bowls, cups, sandwich bags, snack items, green paper, scissors, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Cut money-sized strips from the green paper.</p>
	<p><b>Center 3: Worship With Music</b> Praise God while waving colored streamers to the rhythm of the music.</p>	<p>CD player, crepe paper streamers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: Windows for God</b> Bow and kneel down to make windows in worship of God.</p>	<p>clear self-adhesive paper, colored tissue paper, scissors, construction paper, hole punch, yarn <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Stained Glass" page </p>	<p>Cut self-adhesive paper into 9x9-inch squares, 2 pieces per child. Cut construction paper in 1-inch strips along the short side of the paper, 4 strips per child.</p>
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Do a finger-play prayer.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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







## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "If You're Happy to Be Here" (track 3), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 4)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate

**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "If You're Happy to Be Here" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

**♪** If you're happy to be here, give a smile. (*point to sides of mouth and smile*)  
 If you're happy to be here, give a smile. (*point to sides of mouth and smile*)  
 If you're happy to be here and your face is full of cheer,  
 If you're happy to be here, give a smile. (*point to sides of mouth and smile*)

If you're happy to be here, shake a hand. (*shake a neighbor's hand*)  
 If you're happy to be here, shake a hand. (*shake a neighbor's hand*)  
 If you're happy to be here and your face is full of cheer,  
 If you're happy to be here, shake a hand. (*shake a neighbor's hand*)

If you're happy to be here, say, "Welcome, friend." (*wave hand*)  
 If you're happy to be here, say, "Welcome, friend." (*wave hand*)  
 If you're happy to be here and your face is full of cheer,  
 If you're happy to be here, say, "Welcome, friend." (*wave hand*)

If you're happy to be here, do all three. (*show "three" with fingers*)  
 Give a smile, shake a hand, say, "Welcome, friend." (*repeat all three motions*)  
 If you're happy to be here, do all three. (*show "three" with fingers*)  
 Give a smile, shake a hand, say, "Welcome, friend." (*repeat all three motions*)  
 If you're happy to be here and your face is full of cheer,  
 If you're happy to be here, do all three. (*show "three" with fingers*)  
 Give a smile, shake a hand, say, "Welcome, friend." (*repeat all three motions*)

Say: Today we're learning that we ► **WORSHIP GOD**. One way to do that is by singing. Let's sing another song to Jesus.





Lead children in singing “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 4 on the CD). Encourage children to sing the echoes in parentheses.

 **Jesus loves me;** (*echo*)

- This I know,** (*echo*)
- For the Bible** (*echo*)
- Tells me so.** (*echo*)
- Little children** (*echo*)
- To him belong.** (*echo*)
- They are weak, but** (*echo*)
- He’s so strong!** (*echo*)

- Jaaayyy!** (*J*)
- Eeeee!** (*E*)
- Ssssss!** (*S*)
- Uuuuu!** (*U*)
- Ssssss!** (*S*)

- And what’s that spell?** (*Jesus!*)
- And who do you love?** (*Jesus!*)
- And who loves you?** (*Jesus!*)
- Who died for you?** (*Jesus!*)
- And who’s your guy?** (*Jesus!*)
- The apple of your eye!** (*Jesus!*)
- And who’s your friend?** (*Jesus!*)
- He’ll love ya to the end!** (*Jesus!*)

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

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Say: **We’ll learn today that when we ► WORSHIP GOD, it makes him happy. Today to worship God we sang a song about Jesus’ love. But we can worship God in many ways. Let’s learn more about that.**

## **2** KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Stand Up Tall

#### What You’ll Do

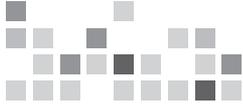
Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 1:16, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God’s special book.



**Stand Up Tall  
Supplies**

Bible





Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel” (Romans 1:16). That means we aren’t embarrassed to tell people about Jesus. We can be excited to tell others how great Jesus is. Let’s say our Key Verse together. Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: “I am not ashamed of the gospel” (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **The gospel tells us that God loves us and sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. If you’re not ashamed of the gospel, you want people to know that you love God. Instead of hiding how you feel about God, you want to stand up for God and tell others about him and his love.**

Have children stand up and form a circle, leaving space between them so they can march in place.

Say: **We’re going to learn a cheer to help us remember that we don’t have to be ashamed of the gospel and that we can stand up for Jesus.**

Teach kids the following cheer, “I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel.” Encourage kids to join you in the cheer and do the hand motions.

**I am not ashamed of the gospel,** *(march in place, swinging arms back and forth)*

**'Shamed of the gospel,** *(march in place, swinging arms back and forth)*

**'Shamed of the gospel.** *(march in place, swinging arms back and forth)*

**I am not ashamed of the gospel.**

**God can count on me!** *(point to self with left thumb)*

**Yes, sir!** *(use right hand to salute)*

**Everywhere I go,** *(resume marching in place)*

**Yes, sir!** *(use right hand to salute)*

**Everyone will know,** *(resume marching in place)*

**Yes, sir!** *(use right hand to salute)*

**I am not ashamed of the gospel.** *(march in place)*

**God can count on me.** *(point to self with left thumb)*

**Yes, sir!** *(use right hand to salute)*

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like about doing our cheer?**
- **Tell about a time you cheered for someone or something.**
- **Why do you want to cheer for God?**

Say: **It was great to see all of you cheering about God. Every day you can stand up and be excited to tell others about Jesus like that. Today we’ll learn how Jesus stood up for God, and we’ll learn how Jesus says we ► WORSHIP GOD.**



**3** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** It's a receipt.

**Teacher:** What did you buy?

**Theo:** I had to buy some fancy doggy treats for a party I'm having with all my friends.

**Teacher:** Those can be expensive!

**Theo:** Yeah, I think I paid too much.

**Teacher:** Today we're going to hear about some people who paid too much when they went to buy gifts for God. And Jesus wasn't happy about it, either. He was sad because they were charging too much money, and it wasn't fair to people.

**Theo:** What else happened?

**Teacher:** Well, the people were going to church to worship God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **WORSHIP GOD.**)*

**Teacher:** Worship is very important to God! Theo, too bad you're on your way to that party, or you could stay to hear more about what happened. Children, can you help say goodbye to Theo?

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about Theo buying the fancy dog treats?**
- **Tell about a time you got ready for a party.**
- **Tell about some ways you get ready for church.**

Say: **Theo was getting ready for a great party with his friends. We have things to get ready for, too, like worshipping God at church. But we'll learn in the Bible today that when we go to church and we ► **WORSHIP GOD,** we don't have to bring fancy things like Theo felt he had to do for his party.**



### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
tape  
receipt

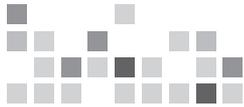
### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 5)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape a receipt to Theo's paw.





### Bible Time: Crash Go the Tables Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
2 copies of the  
"Church" page (at the  
end of the lesson)  
glue  
scissors

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus in the  
Temple" (track 9)  
"Jesus Clears the  
Temple" poster (from  
the Big Bible Poster  
Pack)

### Bible Time: Crash Go the Tables Easy Prep

Cut 1 copy of the  
"Church" page into 8  
to 12 puzzle-shaped  
pieces.

## Bible Time: Crash Go the Tables

### What You'll Do

Set the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster on the floor. Open your Bible to John 2:13-22, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn what Jesus said about how he wants us to worship. I'll need your help telling what happened. Ready?**

Read the following rhyme to the children. Then help them practice the motions for each line. When the children are familiar with the rhyme and motions, play "Jesus in the Temple" (track 9 on the CD), and help them act out what happened.

**Jesus went on his way** (*walk in place*)  
**To the Temple in Jerusalem to pray.**  
**Jesus went to worship his Lord dear** (*lift arms above head*)  
**Because Passover, the holiday, was near.**  
**At the Temple, the merchants were there,**  
**But they had not come to say prayers.** (*shake finger back and forth*)  
**These men were there to sell**  
**And make money to live quite well.** (*rub fingers to thumb on both hands*)  
**When Jesus saw the merchants there,**  
**He said, "Get out! My house is dear.** (*point away from body*)  
**My father's house is not for this,"**  
**As he threw out a merchant's pricing list.** (*pretend to throw away a piece of paper*)  
**Jesus turned over the table and chairs** (*pretend to turn over imaginary table*)  
**And turned the Temple back to a house of prayer.** (*make praying hands*)  
**"My God will not like what you've done.** (*shake head back and forth*)  
**Now gather your things and run."** (*run in place*)  
**Jesus said, "This is God's special place,"** (*open hands slowly in front of body*)  
**As he looked at each merchant's face.**  
**"We worship and honor God here,**  
**For our Lord is precious and dear.** (*cross arms across chest*)  
**Worship is important to God,"** (*extend one arm up and look up*)  
**Jesus said with a smile and a nod.** (*smile and nod*)  
**The merchants, they all ran away.** (*run in place*)  
**Then Jesus went inside to pray.** (*fold hands and bow head*)

Say: **It made Jesus very sad to see people doing other things inside the church instead of worshipping and praying.** Point to the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster.

Show kids the intact "Church" page, and say: **This is a picture of a church, just like the Temple that Jesus visited. Like the people we read about in the Bible, this church is all mixed up.** Show the puzzle pieces you cut ahead of time and mix them. **The people didn't treat the church as a special place. Let's put this church back together to remind us that church is a special place where we ► WORSHIP GOD.** Help kids glue the pieces onto the intact church to put the mixed-up church back together.



### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to put the pieces of the church back together?
- Why do we want to treat church like a special place?
- What things can you do in church to tell God you love him?

Say: **The people in the Bible were not treating the church like a special place. Like the picture we put back together, Jesus helped the people know what he wants church to look like. He said we ► WORSHIP GOD in church. This week let's show God we love him by worshipping him in all the ways we can.**

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## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## My Church

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 2 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we learned that one place we ► WORSHIP GOD is in church. And Jesus wants us to make church a special place to be. Let's make some special churches.**

Have each child cut out the church doors, fold the flaps, and then glue the flaps in place on the page.

Say: **We can worship God together when we're at church—and that makes God really happy. Let's draw pictures of ourselves inside the church, worshipping God.** Have the children draw pictures of themselves with their families and church members inside the church doors.



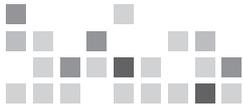
### Center 1: My Church Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
safety scissors  
crayons  
glue sticks

### Center 1: My Church Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





### Center 2: Shopping for a Snack Supplies

bowls  
cups  
sandwich bags  
snack items  
green paper  
scissors  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 2: Shopping for a Snack Easy Prep

Cut money-sized strips from the green paper.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about who you drew inside your church doors.
- Why do you like celebrating and worshipping God with others?

Say: **We ► WORSHIP GOD in churches, like the ones we made today. We made special churches to remind us of what Jesus said about treating the church as a special place. Whether we're at church or at home, we can always worship God with the people we drew in our pictures.**

## ■ CENTER 2:

# Shopping for a Snack

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands for the snack. Say: **When Jesus went into the Temple, he found the people selling things and charging way too much money. They were taking advantage of the people, and they weren't treating God's house like the special place that it is.**

**Today we'll pretend to sell snacks to each other, but we'll be very kind as we do—and we won't ask our friends for too much money.** Split your children into two groups.

Explain that the first group is the merchants, and give each of them a bowl filled with one of the snack items. Explain that the second group is the shoppers, and give each of them some "money" that you prepared ahead of time.

Help the children as they pretend to buy and sell snacks, using the cups to scoop the food and the plastic bags to hold the purchased snacks. Then let them each have a small portion. Lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for the food, and then let them enjoy the snack.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to buy or sell the snack?
- Explain whether that was like or unlike what we read about in the Bible.
- What can you do to worship God as Jesus taught?

Say: **We can share our snacks kindly, unlike the people we read about in the Bible. When we treat each other well, it's a way to show God we love him. And when we show God we love him, we ► WORSHIP GOD.**





**CENTER 3:**

## Worship With Music

### What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning that we ► **WORSHIP GOD**—and we've learned that we can worship God in many ways. Here are some ways we learned today: singing, praying, being kind to others, and treating our church like a special place. And those aren't all the ways we can worship God.

Give each child a long piece of crepe paper. Say: **Let's worship God in a new way. Hold your streamer above your head and swing it around.** Allow time. Then show kids how to make their streamers fly by turning in circles, shaking them in the air, and moving quickly in one direction.

Play "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 4 on the CD), and encourage kids to worship God as they listen to the song and play with their streamers.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about worshipping God in this way?
- What other ways do you like to worship God?
- What can you do to worship God this week?

Say: **When we ► WORSHIP GOD like we did today, it makes God happy. Jesus taught in the Temple that God wants our worship of him to be special. Let's worship God in special ways this week.**

**CENTER 4:**

## Windows for God

### What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning to ► **WORSHIP GOD. One way to worship God is to bow before him. Let's practice.** Show kids how to kneel on the floor and bow. Allow time for them to practice.

Say: **When we bow, we show God we know how big and great and wonderful he is.**

Show the "Stained Glass" page. Say: **Making beautiful art is another way to show God we know how beautiful he is—it's a way to worship God.**

Say: **Let's worship God in those two ways right now. We'll bow as we make beautiful "stained glass" windows.**



### Center 3: Worship With Music Supplies

CD player  
crepe paper streamers  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 4)

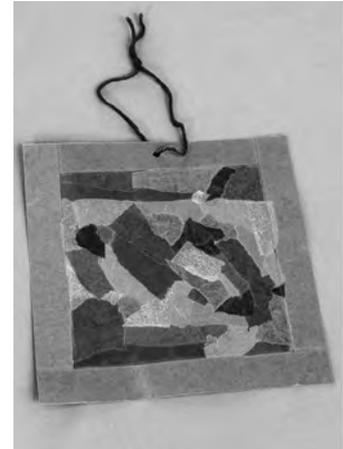
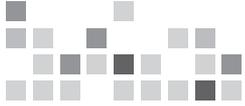
### Center 4: Windows for God Supplies

clear self-adhesive paper  
colored tissue paper  
scissors  
construction paper  
hole punch  
yarn  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Stained Glass" page

### Center 4: Windows for God Easy Prep

Cut self-adhesive paper into 9x9-inch squares, 2 pieces per child. Cut construction paper in 1-inch strips along the short side of the paper, 4 strips per child.





Set the art supplies and the sample picture on the floor so kids can bow and kneel before God while they create their “stained glass” windows. Peel the backing off the self-adhesive paper, and lay one sheet sticky side up in front of each child.

Show kids how to lay the construction paper strips over the self-adhesive paper to make a frame, covering the edges of the self-adhesive paper and leaving the sticky center open.

Invite kids to tear the colored tissue paper into small pieces and stick them to the self-adhesive paper inside the frames. They can create whatever design they choose.

Write each child’s name on his or her frame. Peel the backing off the other sheets of self-adhesive paper, and lay one over the top of each window. Punch a hole in the center of the top of the frame, thread a piece of yarn through the hole, and tie a knot in the yarn to make a hanger.

Let the children hold up their “stained glass” windows to a light or window.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

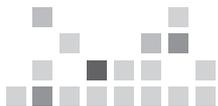
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about worshipping God in the ways we just did?**
- **Why is it good to bow to God and tell him he’s wonderful?**

Say: **Jesus told the people in the Temple to start treating God’s house better. He knew that God’s house was a special place to worship God. When we ► WORSHIP GOD, we can do it in church. But we can also do it outside of church. When we bow or make beautiful art for God, it makes God happy. Let’s worship God in many ways this week.**





## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► WORSHIP GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to worship God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Sing a song with your mom or dad to worship God.**
- **Make something beautiful to show God you know he's beautiful.**

Say: **If you want to sing, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to make something, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

### Action Prayer

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Do the following familiar finger play as a prayer. Each time you show the worshipping people, invite a child to thank God for something. Let each child have a chance to thank God.

Pray:

**Here is my church,** (*hide fingers inside folded hands*)

**Here is the steeple.** (*point index fingers up*)

**Thank you, God, for the worshipping people.** (*open hands and wiggle "people" fingers*)

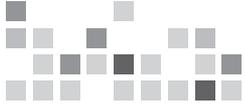
End the prayer: **In Jesus' name, amen.**



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs



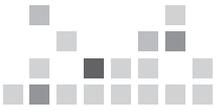


## Weaving Faith at Home

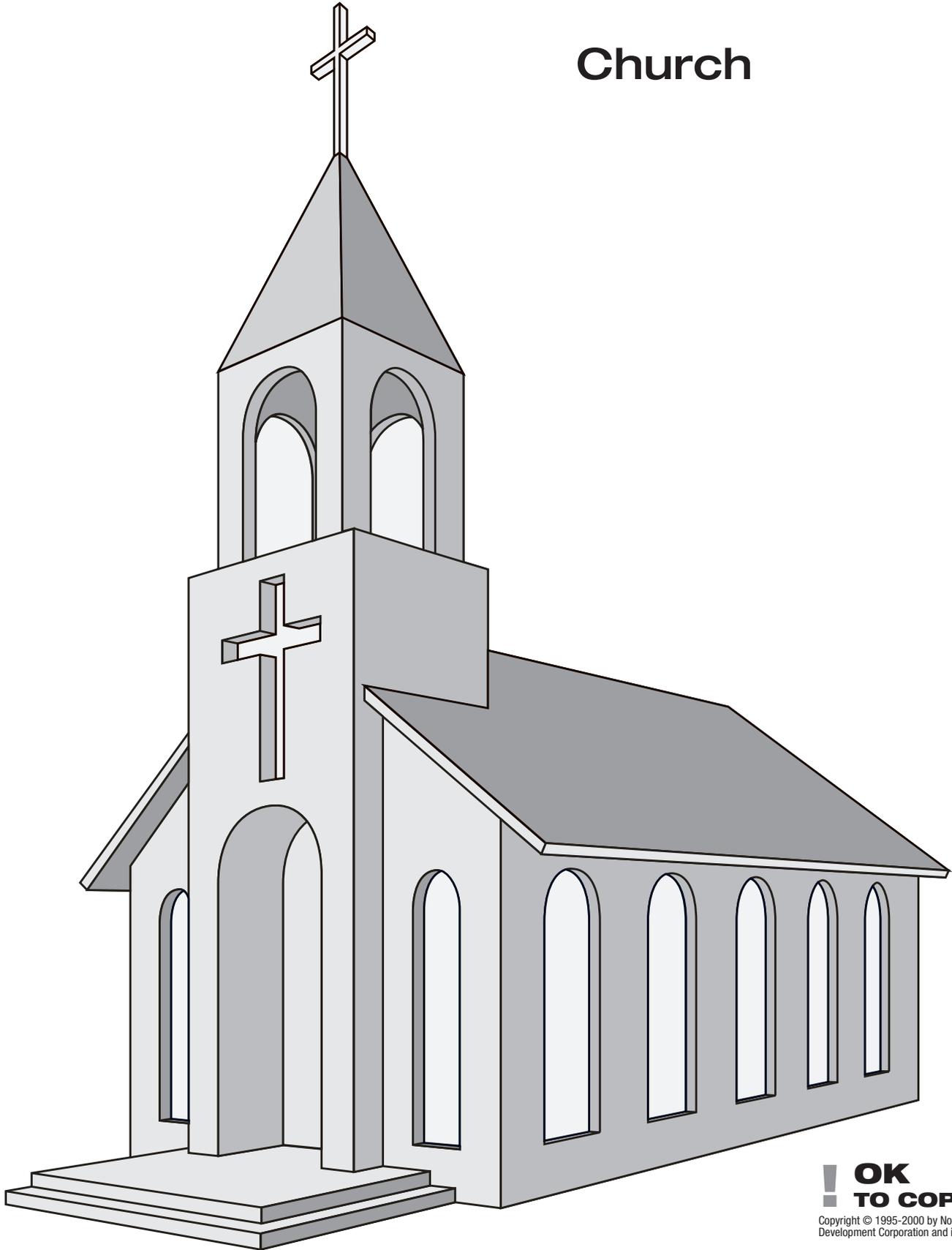
Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





# Church



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