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JESUS AND THE TEMPLE

Restoring God's Place

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Matthew 21:14 – 15, Mark 11:17, John 2: 13 – 22

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus taught that just as the Temple was supposed to be a holy place where blood sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin were made, his body would become God's holy Temple and his blood would pay for sin.
- Jesus drove out the money changers from the Court of the Gentiles, where the Gentiles were allowed to come and worship God. By this action, he reminded Israel that his promise was for all nations.

Memory Verse "My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray."
(Isaiah 56:7b - NIRV)

ACNA The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

**Catechism
Connection**

Q 28 What is in the New Testament? ...contains the record of Jesus Christ's ministry...

Q 134 How does God respond to human sin? All sin is opposed to the holiness of God, and is therefore subject to God's condemnation...

Q 9 Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is my Savior, fully divine and fully human. He bore my sins, dying in my place on the cross, then rose from the dead to rule as anointed king over me and all creation.

Q 303 How did Christ cause life to flourish? Jesus sought the well being of all who came to him: he made the blind to see and cured the sick...

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- 2 tables
- A picture of the temple or a model temple façade made from cardboard
- Money bag
- Stuffed animals: oxen, sheep and pigeons etc. (In a corner set up the tables with two people with the money bags. Place the stuffed animals around.)
- Whip
- Canes and sunglasses for the lame and blind
- White cloths or something for the children to wave
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Jesus (with blue sash) and a Jewish Leader

Memory Verse: "My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray." (Isaiah 56:7b - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (Jesus holding a whip, turning over tables)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder where this is taking place.

I wonder what Jesus is doing.

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

*Today, our Bible story takes us to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the most important place for the Israelites to worship God. It was supposed to be a holy place where animal blood sacrifices were offered for the forgiveness of sins. It was a place of worship and prayer. At the Temple there was a special place for Gentiles to come and worship God too. Gentiles are people who are not Israelites; they are people from other nations. It had always been God's plan that the Israelites would bless the people from other nations by telling them about the one true God and his love for everyone. But the Israelites had forgotten God's plan and purpose for them. One day Jesus visited the Temple and saw that the Temple courtyard was filled with shopping stalls and animals and greedy money changers who were cheating the people of their money! There were many Gentiles and Jewish people there who wanted to pray and offer a sacrifice to God, but God's house had become a marketplace instead of a house of prayer. Jesus tipped over the tables of the money changers and drove out the animals to make room for the true worshippers of God. After he had done this, the lame and blind people who were there came to Jesus to be healed. Even the children in the crowd came to Jesus and sang, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" But the Jewish leaders and the sellers were very angry that Jesus cleared away their greedy trade. After Jesus cleared the Temple, he told the people that soon the Temple made of stone would not be God's place to live anymore. Instead **Jesus** would be the Temple and **his** blood would pay for the sins of all people. Jesus would have to suffer and die to do this. If we want to meet with God we must go, not to a building, but to Jesus.*

STORY:

TEACHER: Today, our story is about Jesus in the Temple.

ACTION: *Jesus walking through the Temple.*

TEACHER: To the Israelites, the Temple was a special place where people went to meet with God, just like the church is for us today.

As Jesus was walking around, he saw men selling animals such as cattle, sheep, and doves. Some of the men were greedy. They were sitting at tables and trading money and cheating people. When Jesus saw this, he became very angry.

ACTION: *In the corner have a couple of tables with two people with money bags. Place the camel, sheep and other stuffed animals around the table and different locations.*

TEACHER: Instead of the Temple being a place of worship, it had become a bad place where people were just trying to make a lot of money. People were sinning by focusing on making money and cheating people in God's Temple instead of coming to God to make animal sacrifices and ask to be forgiven.

Jesus decided to do something. He picked up a whip and started tipping over the tables of the money traders, and all the coins were scattered. Jesus drove out the sheep and the cattle, and all the doves flew away.

ACTION: *Jesus should pick up the whip, turn over tables, and the coins and money bags will fall on the floor.*

TEACHER: While Jesus was doing this, he said to the people,

JESUS: "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

TEACHER: Jesus was also upset because this part of the Temple was supposed to be where the Gentiles could come to pray and worship God. But the Israelites had turned away the Gentiles and they could not worship the One True God.

So how do you think the money changers and sellers responded?

Well, they were very angry at Jesus. They yelled back at Jesus, "What do you think you are doing? Who made you in charge?"

ACTION: *Have the money changers at the tables clench and raise their fists toward Jesus.*

TEACHER: When Jesus heard this, he said to the people,

JESUS: "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (*Hold up 3 fingers*)

TEACHER: Then the people became very quiet.

JEWISH LEADER: (*scratching his head says*), "Men worked 46 years to build this temple! Do you really believe you can build it again in three days?"

ACTION: *Jesus looks away. Does not say a word. Drops his whip. Walks away and sits down.*

TEACHER: Jesus was right. The leaders did not understand what he meant. The Temple that Jesus was referring to was his body - that he would die and be raised from the dead in 3 days. Jesus would become the Temple....God's special place, and the blood of JESUS would pay for our sin once and for all.

God's place would not be the stone Temple in Jerusalem anymore. Jesus himself would be the true Temple where we can meet with God anywhere at anytime.

It was sad as the people did not understand what Jesus was saying to them.

After Jesus cleared out the money changers, the blind and the lame people came to Jesus for comfort and healing. Look! They are coming now, through the tipped over tables and they are coming to Jesus to be healed. And even the little children are coming and praising God for his love and truth and wonderful works!

ACTION: *Some of the children pick up canes to indicate lameness and put on sunglasses for blindness. They go straight to Jesus and sit beside him. Give the children a handkerchief or cloth or leaf to wave and say, "Hosanna to the Son of David".*

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **How does Jesus help the people in this story?** (He confronts sin, teaches about true worship, heals people)
- **In this story how did Jesus help the Gentiles worship God in the temple?** (He chased out the greedy money changers and restored their place of worship)
- **How did Jesus correct those who were greedy?** (He confronted their sin and told them the true purpose of the temple)
- **Why did Jesus tip over the tables and drive out the moneychangers in the Temple court?** (The moneychangers were cheating the people of their money and stopping the Gentiles from worshipping God)
- **What did God *really* want the Temple to be for?** (A house of prayer and worship, a place of sacrifice for the forgiveness for sin, and a place where all the people of the world could come to know and worship God)
- **Why was Jesus angry?** (Because the moneychangers were sinning greatly by not honouring God's holy place, they were cheating people and not allowing the Gentiles to worship God.)

- What did Jesus mean when he said: "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up"? (He was referring to his own body - that he would die and be raised from the dead in 3 days. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus would become the new Temple where we can meet with God.)
- How does this story help us today? (Because we know that Jesus is the true Temple and that he is always with us. We don't have to travel to a certain city or place to worship God, Jesus is with us everywhere.)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Jesus taught that the people would no longer need a temple made of STONE. They would no longer need to travel all the way to Jerusalem to worship God. Jesus taught that he was the new, and true Temple. That means that wherever we are in the world, in Jerusalem or at home or at school, we can worship and pray because Jesus is always with us.

How can we worship or pray to Jesus today? (Anywhere, anytime)

Let's pray right now. (Ask the children for any prayer requests they have.) "Dear Jesus, thank you that we can talk to you and pray to you wherever we are. At anytime, in any place. Right now we pray for...(pray for any prayer needs the children have.) Thank you, Jesus. Amen."

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Trace around child's hand, cut out on the double with a fold in the middle to make praying hands. Write down people and things to pray for inside the open hands.



Jesus clearing the Court of the Gentiles

"My house will be
called a house where
people from all
nations can pray."

(Isaiah 56:7b)