

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE (B.1.SPRING.3)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 21:12-17
Key Verse	Matthew 21:13a, John 9:5
Key Concept	Jesus teaches me that anger expressed in violence against people is not a right response.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about the different occasions in which they've felt angry 2. Explain the difference between anger towards people and anger towards the things that people do 3. Retell the story of when Jesus got angry at the people's actions.

Life Application

Generally anger is something when not controlled or expressed properly can hurt us, as well as others. Children (and adults) need to understand the difference between anger that's expressed appropriately and anger that's not expressed appropriately. Jesus got angry when he saw how people were abusing the house of God (the Temple). His anger was towards the actions of the people, not the people themselves. The children can begin to understand the difference of anger expressed correctly or incorrectly through the lesson today. This will help them to be conscious of their own actions and feelings.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Molding clay, paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, visual aid	15 minutes
Prayer and song		10 minutes
Activity		10 minutes
Craft	Scroll, pens, markers	10 minutes
Worksheet	Worksheets	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: Have children use molding clay, draw, or cut out shapes of a table with many coins piled on it.

Bible Story: The disciple who will tell the story today will be James the son of Zebedee. He will tell how Jesus entered the temple and threw out the people who were selling things. Make sure that the person who plays the role of James reads the Bible story beforehand and can tell it in their own words. Remind them to use first person ("When I was with Jesus..."). Then talk to the children about the difference between anger that is directed towards a wrongful action that someone has done and the anger that sometimes we feel as selfish people. The theme can be a little difficult for children of this age, but use some examples that will help them see the difference lived out in real life. Also talk about that our anger should be directed at the action and not the person. When we can separate the two from each other we can control ourselves and at the same time be able to forgive someone when they have wronged us or hurt us. The children will begin to see that the anger that Jesus expressed was a response to the actions that he saw around him at that moment. He was rejecting what people were doing in the temple, in God's house. So he got their attention and invited them to see why what they were doing was wrong. Let the children express different situations where they have experienced anger.

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Here are some talking points to help your conversation with the children:

1. Jesus went to the temple to praise his father, but found that people had turned it into a shopping center.
2. Jesus had a right to feel angry about what the people were doing.
3. Jesus expressed his anger by telling the people to get out and stop selling things
4. Jesus never stopped loving the people, even when they were acting in this way.

Finish the story by letting a child put the heart symbol on the tree/branches. Explain that Jesus may not always like what we do but Jesus always loves us.

Prayer and song: Pray using short phrases, asking God to help us know how to control our anger and express it appropriately. Add another verse to the song, "God is so good."

Activity: In a paper page, have some slips of paper with unjust situations written on them (see in the following pages). A child can pull out one of the slips of paper and read the situation. Then the child can express what he or she would feel in the situation and how they would respond. Give everyone a turn to participate. In the following pages you will find a list of different situations. Think of others to add to it.

Craft: In the scrolls, have the children add the phrase, "I am the light of the world."

Worksheet: In the following pages you will find a worksheet that you can use if time permits.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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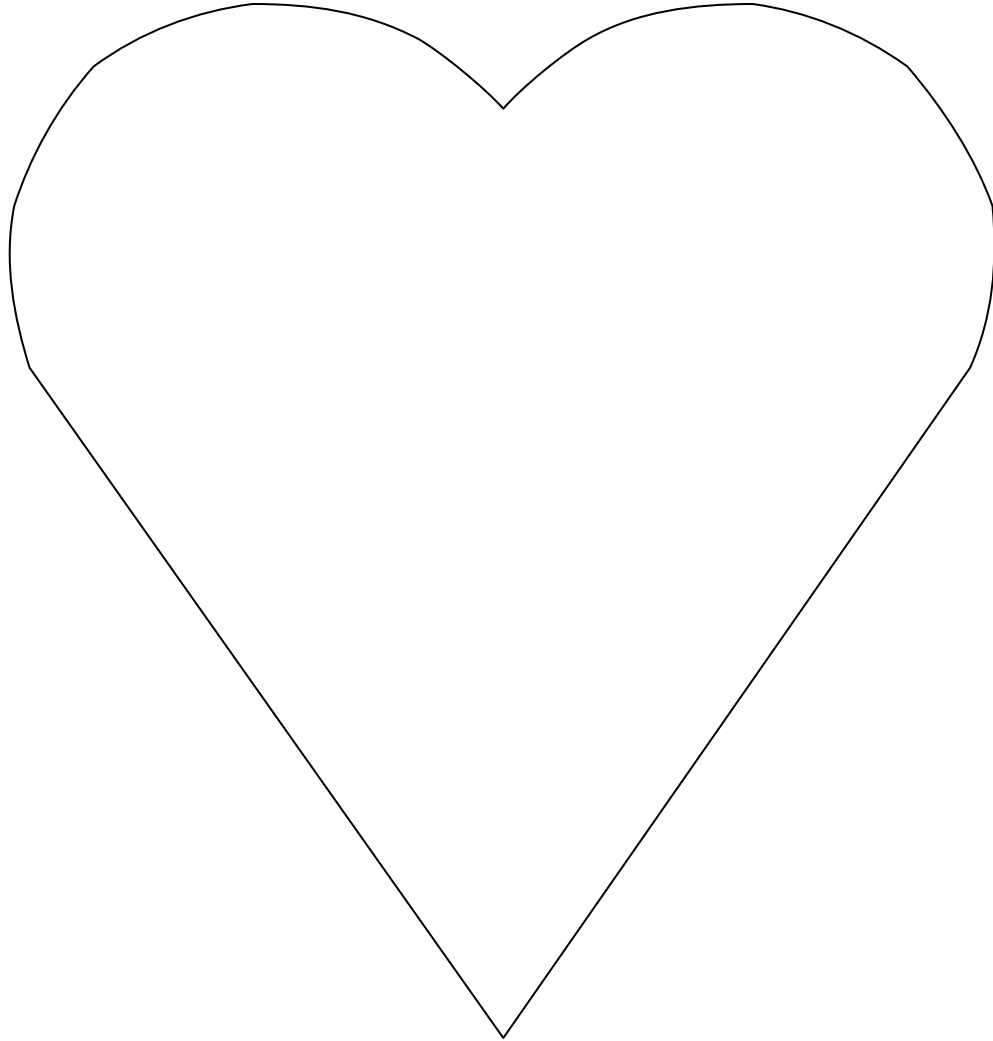
W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Heart Symbol



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WORKSHEET

Jesus in the Temple: Matthew 21:12-17



Put an X by the correct answer

When Jesus went to Jerusalem he:

Visited friends ____

Went to the temple ____

When Jesus went to the temple he:

Turned over tables ____

Bought something ____

Jesus said,

“My house will be called a house of ____.”

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ACTIVITY

Situations that cause anger

Use these situations and write them on little strips of paper that can be put into a paper bag and pulled out by the children. They can identify how they would feel in the situation and how they would respond. You can also talk about the importance of expressing anger in a way that doesn't hurt anyone.

- My friend takes away a toy that I'm playing with
- My mom won't let me go outside to play
- I don't like the food I have to eat
- My brother or sister breaks one of my toys
- Someone makes fun of one of my friends
- My dog eats my homework
- My dad gets sick so I have to help more around the house
- I don't get the birthday gift I want