

# Adventures with GOD!

## JESUS IN THE TEMPLE (C.1.Spring.6)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Biblical Reference     | John 2:13-25  |
| Key Verse              | John 2:16   |
| Key Concept            | Jesus' anger was prompted by the injustice and sin of the people who were selling in the temple in Jerusalem.   |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compare the anger of Jesus with the anger that we typically demonstrate</li> <li>2. Explain what made Jesus angry and what makes us angry</li> <li>3. Comment on how Jesus would react if he visited our church</li> </ol> |

### Life Application

The story of Jesus in the temple is many times difficult for children and even adults to understand. We love to learn about Jesus' love and forgiveness, but we forget that Jesus was also revolutionary in that he didn't accept things just because they were traditional or had always been done a certain way. Through this lesson the children will see that Jesus was motivated by anger, that he knew how to express anger and why his anger wasn't sinful. We can help the children to understand how to express anger without it becoming sinful.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity          | Materials                   | Time       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Room set-up       | Paper, crayons/markers      | 5 minutes  |
| My GROW Adventure | GROW Adventure w/God        | 5 minutes  |
| Opening Prayer    | Candle                      | 1 minute   |
| Dialogue          | Bibles, white board, makers | 25 minutes |
| Conclusion        | Worksheets, pens, Bibles    | 10 minutes |
| My GROW Adventure | Review                      | 5 minutes  |
| Closing Prayer    | Candle                      | 1 minute   |

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Room set-up:** Have children draw pictures of Jesus helping others. Hang them up around the classroom. Today's story is not an easy one. Many people want to pretend that Jesus didn't get angry and they don't like that the story talks about a whip. But we need to recognize that Jesus did feel angry because of the injustice and sin of the people selling things in the temple.

**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)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Dialogue:** To begin this part of the class, the children should take a walk around the room and look at the pictures of Jesus that are hanging on the walls. Ask the children to explain the picture draw (remind them that we don't know what Jesus looked like exactly, but that these are artistic representations). After the children have shared what pictures they like, bring everyone together in a circle and read John 2:13-17 and talk about how the pictures that portray Jesus are different than the Jesus that's portrayed in this story. Why is it difficult for us to think about Jesus getting angry? Look at the picture of the temple. Ask what was going on

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here that made Jesus Angry? Did Jesus hurt anyone? Why did Jesus get angry? What did Jesus use to get the cattle and sheep to leave? What did Jesus believe the temple was for?

Jesus got upset when he saw them turning their faith into a business. Talk about how anger is a part of Jesus' humanity, but even in his anger Jesus didn't sin. This passage shows us that sin and injustice are two things that cause anger in a Christian.

Talk about the different things that make us angry? How do we respond? Talk about what are ways that are appropriate to express our anger. What's the difference between anger that's justified and anger that turns to sin?

**Conclusion:** Spend some time letting them reflect on their own lives. Give them a piece of paper where they can write or draw areas of their lives where they want God to help them to control their anger. Spend time praying together.

## **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)

**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?

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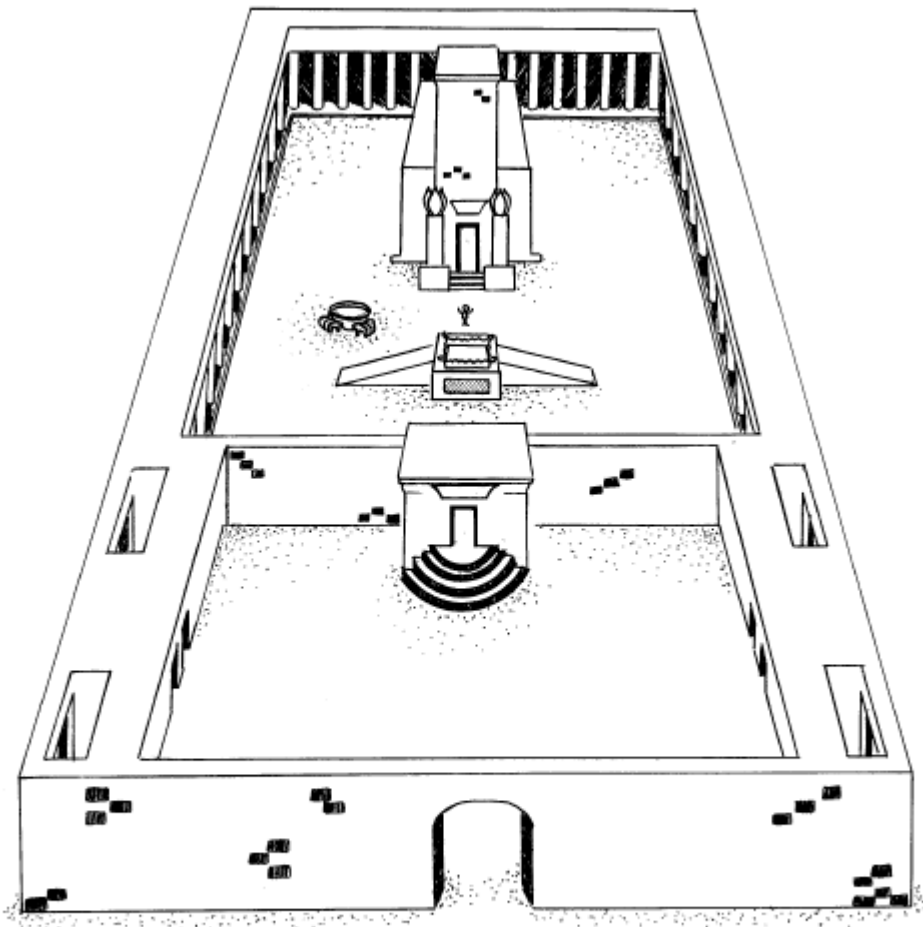
**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, 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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## ILLUSTRATION

### Temple



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ILLUSTRATION

