

<b>Quarter #:</b> 1	<b>Class Age:</b> 4-6 year olds	<b>Lesson Title:</b> Birth of Jesus
<b>Lesson #:</b> 1	<b>Prepared By:</b> A. Alexander	<b>Lesson Scripture:</b> Matt. 1:18-25; 2:1-18; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-38

**Visuals / Resources:** Use map to point out places

**Welcome Activity:** one of the various coloring sheets

**Prayer:** Talk about who we pray to, what prayer is, why and when we pray. Take prayer requests.

**Review:** From last quarter, review what prophets and prophecies are.

**Lesson Facts:** (Main points to cover...)

**Principle:** (Concept / Key truth to be gained...)

God keeps His promises.

**Application:** (How student can apply...)

When we obey God, and He tells us we can go to heaven if we follow + obey Him, we know it'll happen.

**Activities:** "Names of Jesus" wreath (Oriental Trading), various coloring sheets, maze  
Introduce/practice Memory Verse

**Songs:** Trust + Obey (chorus)  
Jesus, Name Above All Names #199

**Other:**

## Lesson 1 Birth of Christ

REVIEW: In the last few lessons, you learned about Haggai & Zechariah.

They were PROPHETS. What is a PROPHET? messenger of God's word.

There were no Bibles yet, so God used men to tell His people things.

Zechariah especially had prophecies about Jesus. Jesus wouldn't come for a long time after Zechariah, but people needed to be waiting & watching for when Jesus would come!

What is a PROPHECY? information about a person or event that would happen in the future.

In this lesson, we'll learn about several prophecies, some from Zechariah, that came true. So, God gives the information to a prophet. The prophet tells people or writes it down. Then when whatever God said happens, the prophecy is fulfilled! It shows us that God keeps His promises ALWAYS!

LESSON: There was a young woman named Mary, and she was going to marry a man named Joseph. An angel came to each of them and said, "Mary is going to have a baby!"

The angel told Joseph in Matt. 1:21-23 (READ from Bible)

Did you hear that? Prophecy fulfilled?! God keeps His promises!

About this time, a census was being taken. A census is when they count people to see how many there are. So everybody has to go to where their family's from. Many people had to travel. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, so he & Mary traveled there. While they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth in a manger to a baby boy and they called Him Jesus! Just like God said!

Away from the city there were some shepherds in a field and an angel tells them that Jesus, the Christ has been born. So the shepherds go to Bethlehem right away to see!

Now the King at this time is Herod. Some wisemen came to Herod + asked, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Uh-oh! Does a King want to hear about another King? No! Herod wants to stay King! So Herod asks chief priests + scribes about where Jesus is to be born.

READ Matt 2:5-6

Another prophecy! God keeps His promises!

So the wisemen find out where Jesus is, go to Him, and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense, + myrrh.

After awhile everyone leaves, and it's just Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. An angel tells Joseph to "Get up + go to Egypt!" "Stay there until I tell you that you can leave!"

Can you guess why they had to go to Egypt?

King Herod was jealous when he heard that another king had been born, so he wanted every baby boy 2 years old + younger killed! That is not good! But Joseph obeyed God + took them to Egypt + they stayed there until Herod died. Going to Egypt + Herod having baby boys killed are two more prophecies fulfilled. God said this would happen and we can read in the Bible that it did!

God keeps His promises.

When we obey God, and He tells us we can go to Heaven if we follow + obey Him, we know it'll happen.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Week 2, Preschool class, Prepped by Jennifer Atkins**

## **John the Baptist Part 1**

**Welcome Activity:** Coloring page of John preaching in the desert

### **Review:**

Last week we talked about how the birth and birthplace of Jesus were prophesied hundreds of years before they actually happened. God promised that these things would happen and they did – exactly the way He promised. God always keeps His word. We can depend on God.

Today we are going to talk about another prophecy from the book of Isaiah that was full-filled through John the Baptist.

### **Who was John the Baptist?**

God had a special plan and purpose for the life of John the Baptist. He was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. The Prophet Isaiah first spoke about John some 600 years before his birth as “a voice crying out in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord.” He wore camel hair and ate locusts and wild honey.

**Visuals: Present story that goes along with picture cards.** (credit: Martha Curry, aCurryCreation.com)

1. When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. They had been unable to have children and were both very old.
2. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing by the incense altar. Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear.
3. “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah!” the angel said, “God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.
4. “Your son will be great in the eyes of the Lord,” the angel announced. “He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. He will be a man with power of Elijah who will prepare the coming of the Lord.”
5. “How can I be sure this will happen?” asked Zechariah. “I’m an old man, and my wife is also old.” “I am Gabriel and stand in the very presence of God,” the angel said, “God sent me to bring you this good news! But since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be unable to speak until the child is born.”

6. The people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary and wondered why he was taking so long. When he finally came out, he couldn't speak to them. They realized from his gestures that he must have seen a vision.

7. Soon afterward, Elizabeth became pregnant. When Elizabeth was about 6 months pregnant, Mary (the mother of Jesus) went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice Elizabeth exclaimed; "Blessed are you among women Mary, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

8. Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth for 3 months. Then Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy. Because Mary and Elizabeth were cousins, their sons would also be cousins.

9. Then 8 days after their son's birth, Zechariah and Elizabeth took their son to the circumcision ceremony. All of their family and friends wanted to name the baby Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No, his name is John!" Their family was confused, "Why?" There is no one in your family by that name."

10. They used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him. Zechariah motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." Instantly Zechariah could speak again. He began praising God and gave a prophecy about his son (Luke 1: 68-79)

11. John grew up and became strong. He lived in the wilderness. His clothing was made of camel hair and he had a leather belt. He ate locust and wild honey.

12. John was the person that the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament had talked about 600 years earlier. Isaiah said he was "a voice crying out in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord."

John preached to the people saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Then those who went out to him were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. John was fulfilling his special God given purpose of preparing the people for Jesus.

**Activities:** (credit: Martha Curry, aCurryCreation.com)

### **John the Baptist Worksheet**

#### **Questions:**

1. Which prophet in the Old Testament told about John preparing the way for the Savior 600 years before he was born? Was it Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah?
2. What were the names of the parents of John the Baptist? Was it Joseph and Mary or Zacharias & Elizabeth?
3. When Elizabeth heard her cousin Mary's greeting, her baby \_\_\_\_\_ in her belly. Was it leapt or slept?
4. Did John the Baptist live in a house, in the wilderness, or in a palace?
5. John the Baptist clothing was made from the hair of a bear, sheep, or camel?
6. What did John eat in the wilderness? Was it honey, fish, locust or snake?

**Worksheet #2:** trace and paste John the Baptist worksheet

#### **Principles and Applications of this lesson:**

1. **God Keeps His Promises:** Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist 600 years before his birth. He described John as "one crying out in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord." God kept this promise, and John introduced the Jewish nation to Jesus. This means that we can trust the promises contained in God's word, especially when He tells us that He will save us from our sins if we will obey Him.
2. **God Had a Special Plan and Purpose for the life of John the Baptist:** When John preached to the Jews about the coming Christ, he told them to be baptized and repent of their sins. The Jews who obeyed this message were ready to receive Jesus and become members of His kingdom, the church. When we trust the Lord and obey His plan for us, we find purpose and meaning in this life and we are prepared for eternal life with God in Heaven.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Week 2, Preschool class, Prepped by Jennifer Atkins**

### **John the Baptist Part 2**

**Welcome Activity:** John the Baptist coloring page

#### **Open class with review of questions from John the Baptist Part 1**

1. Which prophet in the Old Testament told about John preparing the way for the Savior 600 years before he was born? Was it Isaiah or Jeremiah?
2. What were the names of the parents of John the Baptist? Was it Joseph and Mary, or Zacharias & Elizabeth?
3. Did John the Baptist live in a house or in the wilderness?
4. What was John the Baptist clothing made of silk, or the hair of a camel?
5. What did John eat in the wilderness? Was it fish and bread or locust and wild honey?

#### **Part 2**

Last time we talked about how God had a special plan and purpose for the life of John the Baptist. He was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. The Prophet Isaiah first spoke about John some 600 years before his birth as “a voice crying out in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord.” He wore camel hair and ate locust and wild honey.

John prepared the way for Jesus by teaching baptism for the remission of sins. If John could convict his listeners to repent then they would truly be ready to hear Jesus. He did this by preparing the hearts of men and softening them through repentance.

John told the people that “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke 3:16 NKJV)

When John spoke these words, he was telling his listeners that Jesus, the mighty one, was coming, and his baptism was with the Holy Spirit. John pointed his listeners to Jesus.

Jesus also came to John to be baptized by him. This was an example to those listening to John that what he was saying was true. And, to show those that Jesus was God's Son. (Read Luke 3:22)

Today we are going to learn about what happened after John confronted Herod the Tetrach about living in an unlawful marriage to his brother Phillip's wife. Herod strongly disliked John for confronting his sinful behavior. For this reason, Herod had John arrested and thrown into prison. He even wanted to put John to death, but feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. Listen closely to learn what happened after John went to prison.

Visuals: Present picture cards by Cathy Whitacre

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/2015/05/cathys-corner-death-of-john-baptist.html#more>

1. As John was preaching, he told Herod the Tetrarch that he had made a bad decision when he decided to marry his brother's wife Herodias. John also told Herod of other evil things he had done.
2. Herod's birthday was coming, so he held a party. Many people were there.
3. The daughter of Herodias, Salome, danced before Herod and his entire group of guests. Herod was very pleased with her dance and entertainment.
4. He decided to reward her for dancing for him and told her that he would give whatever she wanted. She could have anything; money, gold, jewels, land, cattle, horse, even part of his kingdom if she wanted it.
5. Salome's mother didn't like John because he had preached that she and Herod were wrong for being married. So, after being instructed by her mother on what to say, Salome said "Give me the head of John the Baptizer on a charger (platter)."
6. Herod may have been shocked by her request; he was prepared to give Salome many things. He didn't imagine that a young girl would ask for the head of a prophet. Herod had to give her what she asked for because all those who were there had heard him offer.
7. Herod commanded the head of John the Baptizer be given to Salome and she took it to her mother. What a wicked thing to do to the one who preached the coming of Jesus! John was the first one to die because he believed in Jesus. He was a martyr.
8. When the followers of John heard what had happened, they took his body to bury and told Jesus what had happened. How sad Jesus must have felt.

### Questions:

1. Who was John preparing the way for? Was it Herod or Jesus?
2. What was the important message that John the Baptist preached? Was it that eating locust and honey was good for your health, or was it baptism for the remission of sins?
3. What does "repent" mean? It means to be very sorry for the wrong thing you are doing and then to stop doing it. It also means to begin doing the right thing instead of the wrong thing.
4. Did Herod repent for being in an unlawful marriage?
5. What happened to John?



## **Principle and Application for this lesson:**

**Suffering for the truth:** John told Herod that he did not have a right to married his brother's wife, Herodias. Herod rejected the truth, and Herodias asked for John's life. We may not have to suffer like John, but we need to be courageous when we present the truth to others and not compromise the truth.

## **Activities:**

1. **Repentance Game for Kids:** Use behavior cards to talk about what changed behavior looks like (i.e. Lazy vs. Hard working).
2. **Worksheet:** John the Baptist preached, "Repent, Jesus is coming!"

<b>Quarter #:</b> 1	<b>Class Age:</b> 4-6 year olds	<b>Lesson Title:</b> Jesus' Baptism and Temptation
<b>Lesson #:</b> 3	<b>Prepared By:</b> A. Alexander	<b>Lesson Scripture:</b> Matt. 3-4

**Visuals / Resources:**

**Welcome Activity:** "John baptizes Jesus" coloring sheet

**Prayer:** Discuss what the Bible is (God talking to us), how do we talk to God?  
Sing *Read your Bible and Pray Everyday*  
Take prayer requests

**Review:** Ask 3-4 questions about each lesson so far. Use same questions each time and add new ones after each lesson.

**Lesson Facts:** (Main points to cover...)

**Principle:** (Concept / Key truth to be gained...) We will be tempted. People will try to get us to do the wrong thing or bad thing. How do we resist like Jesus?

- Pray
- say No
- Walk away
- ask for help (mom+dad, Bible class teacher, elders, etc.)

**Application:** (How student can apply...)

We must say No to the bad things + do what God says! Jesus always answered with scripture because He knew God's word. When we study, we can resist sin/temptation + be like Jesus!

**Activities:**

- Word Tiles for Jesus' Temptation puzzle sheet
- Temptation of Jesus multiple choice
- Jesus tempted coloring page

**Songs:** Trust + Obey  
Satan is a liar (from Each Little Dew Drop CD)  
God will take care of you (chorus) #379

**Other:**

LESSON: Let's think back to our last lesson. John was called John the baptist because READ Matt. 3:11, he baptized people with the baptism of REPENTANCE. Let's remember, repentance is when we realize we are doing something wrong that isn't pleasing to God, we are sorry, and we TURN and start doing the right thing.

Who is the one mightier than John? Jesus

One day, Jesus went to the Jordan River where John was baptizing people. Jesus wanted John to baptize him! But John didn't think he was good enough. John said, "I should be baptized by you! Why do you want me to baptize you?!" But Jesus said, "You need to do this." So John baptized Jesus. John obeyed, didn't he?

Can anyone describe, or know what baptism is?

- go completely under the water
- it washes our sins away

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and it landed on Jesus! Then a voice from the heavens said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Wow! Jesus being baptized made God happy! If we do what God wants + asks of us, and we do it, does that make God happy? YES!

#### TEMPTATION

After Jesus was baptized, He was in the wilderness. He was there for 40 days + 40 nights and was fasting.

What is FASTING? When you don't eat

After the 40 days, guess who comes to Jesus? The Devil! The devil came to TEMPT Jesus. Hmm, what does TEMPT mean? When someone tries to get you to do something that is wrong.

READ Matt. 4:3

So, devil wants Jesus to prove His power, and Jesus is hungry. Would bread be tempting to make? YES!

READ Matt. 4:4

Jesus answers using words from the Old Testament. We need God's word to get through this life, not just food. And Jesus did not give in to temptation!

The devil wasn't done though. He took Jesus to the holy city and they stood on the pinnacle of the temple - the tippy-top! Devil tells Jesus "If you're the Son of God then throw yourself down." The devil wants Jesus to jump, basically. "because the angels will save you!" You'll be ok!

READ Matt 4:7

Again, Jesus did not give in to temptation!

The devil isn't done yet! They go to a very high mountain and he shows Jesus ALL the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Devil says, "You can have all of these if you worship me." Would all that power be tempting?

READ Matt 4:10

Satan left! Angels came to take care of Jesus after that.

We will be tempted. People will try to get us to do the wrong thing or bad thing. How do we resist like Jesus?

- Pray
- say No
- walk away
- ask for help  
(mom + Dad, Bible class teacher, elders, etc.)

We must say No to the bad things + do what God says! Jesus always answered with scripture because He knew God's word. When we study, we can resist sin/temptation + be like Jesus!

## Jesus calls His Disciples Part 1: Fishers of Men

This week we are going to learn about Jesus picking out His helpers. They are called Disciples, which means follower. We also call them Apostles, which means one who is sent out. Jesus carefully selects 12 men in all, but today we are only going to focus on the first four called to follow. Their names are Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

### Bible Cards Source:

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-022-four-disciples/>

### Bible Reading:

Luke 5: 1-11

**1** Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;

**2** and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

**3** And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little *distance* from the land. And He sat down and *continued* teaching the crowds from the boat.

**4** Now when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

**5** Simon responded and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but [a] I will do as You say *and* let down the nets."

**6** And when they had done this, they caught a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to tear;

**7** so they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, to the point that they were sinking.

**8** But when Simon Peter saw *this*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

**9** For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

**10** and likewise also *were* [b]James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not fear; from now on you will be catching people.”

**11** When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

**Principle and Application:**

**What does it mean to be a fisher of men?** *It means that the disciples would be the ones to tell everyone else about Jesus and convince them that Jesus is the only way to have life. The application for us today is that we are to go and tell others the good news about Jesus. We are to live in such a way that others will see our example, and will want to follow Jesus too!*

**Activities:**

1. Answer questions on the back of the fish and handout to the student with the correct answer. Consider putting the fish in a small bucket and let each student have a turn at catching a fish. Then repeat the activity to help students remember the teach points.
2. Coloring Page Matthew 4:19

**Songs to sing:**

The 12 Apostles song  
This Little Light of Mine

## Jesus Calls His Disciples Part 2

### Lesson Source:

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/2012/08/the-12-disciples-of-jesus.html>

### Introduction:

The Disciples are the helpers that Jesus picked. Disciple means follower. (Apostle means one who is sent.) Jesus picked 12 men to follow Him. If we follow the list that Luke has in Luke 6:12-15, they are in this order:

### Use Picture Cards to Present Jesus calling His Disciples:

1. (Mathew 4:18) Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee and He saw two brothers fishing. (1) Simon Peter and (2) Andrew were throwing a net into the sea. Jesus told them "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately, they left their nets and they followed Jesus! Jesus named Peter a 'Rock'. (John 1:42)
2. (Matthew 4:21) Then, Jesus saw two more brothers named (3) James and (4) John. They were in the boat with their Zebedee their father mending fishing nets. But, when Jesus called to them, they left the boat and their father immediately to follow Jesus. Later, when Jesus was on the cross, He told Mary (His Mother) "Here is your son" and to John He said "Here is your Mother". John took Mary home with him. Jesus knew that John would take care of Mary. (John 19:26-27)
3. John 1:43-51 Jesus went to Galilee and He found (5) Philip and told him to "Follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida. Philip found (6) Bartholomew who was also called Nathanael. Bartholomew asked Philip if anything good could come out of Nazareth and Philip told him to come and see Jesus! Bartholomew was from Cana of Galilee. (John 21:2)
4. They went to Jesus and Jesus greeted them and told Bartholomew "Before Philip called you, I saw you sitting under the fig tree". Bartholomew was amazed and Jesus told him that he would see greater things. Because Jesus had known that Bartholomew was sitting under a fig tree, he knew that Jesus was special!

6. Matthew was a tax collector. He collected taxes outside the city of Capernaum. People who came by him had to pay taxes for average items they traded. The fishermen also paid taxes on their catches. People didn't like the tax collectors because they overcharged to make extra money for themselves. It was usually a 5% fee but some things were charged up to 12%. People thought the tax collectors' money was so unclean, they didn't ask for their change!

7. (8) Thomas is known as Doubting Thomas because he didn't believe that Jesus, after He died, was raised from the dead. (John 20:25) Thomas was also called 'The Twin'. (John 20:24)

8. (9) James, son of Alphaeus. James is also called James the Less. Then, (10) Simon the Zealot. And, (11) Thaddeus. Thaddeus was also called Jude. There isn't much told to us about them.

9. Last we have (12) Judas Iscariot. He is the one that betrayed Jesus. Judas was the treasurer for the Disciples. (John 12:6) He betrays Jesus for money. Matthias took the place of Judas as the twelfth Disciple after Judas betrayed Jesus and died. (Acts 1:23-26)

#### **Review Questions:**

1. What is another word for disciple? Follower
2. What kind of fishermen did Jesus tell the apostles that they would be? Fishers of men.
3. How many disciples were there? 12
4. Name the twelve apostles. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Bartholomew, James the Less, Simon, Thaddeus, Judas.

#### **Principles and Applications:**

**The 12 Disciples are Jesus' helpers.**

**Jesus can make us fishers of men.**

**Jesus calls you to follow him.**

#### **Activities:**

12 Apostles worksheet

If time allows, ask questions on back of fish from Sunday.

#### **Songs:**

12 Apostles Song



<b>Quarter #:</b> 1	<b>Class Age:</b> 4-6 year olds	<b>Lesson Title:</b> Water turned to wine
<b>Lesson #:</b> 5	<b>Prepared By:</b> A. Alexander	<b>Lesson Scripture:</b> John 2

**Visuals / Resources:** Use map to point out places

**Welcome Activity:**

**Prayer:** Talk about how God talks to us and how we talk to Him.  
Sing The B·I·B·L·E  
Ask for any prayer requests.

**Review:** Go through review questions from previous lessons.  
sing Apostle song

**Lesson Facts:** (Main points to cover...)

**Principle:** (Concept / Key truth to be gained...)

Jesus is powerful + can do anything!

**Application:** (How student can apply...)

Since Jesus can do anything, we can know that He + the Father hear us when we pray. They will help us + we can believe they will help us. Nothing is too hard for them!

**Activities:** Coloring sheet  
Water to Wine paper craft

**Songs:**

**Other:**

## Lesson 5 Water turned to wine

LESSON: Jesus and disciples, His special friends, were in Cana for a wedding. His mother was there too. What was her name again? MARY

At the wedding, they ran out of wine to drink. Mary, Jesus' mom, told Him what had happened. Jesus said, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come."

Do you think Mary knew Jesus could help? She knew He was special, but He says it's not time to show who He really is.

Why is He special? Who was He? SON OF GOD  
Mary tells the people working at the wedding to do whatever Jesus tells them.

Somewhere by Jesus there were 6 stone water pots - big pots for holding water. They were probably as big as you! Jesus said to fill the waterpots with water. So the servants did - to the top! Then Jesus told them to take some out and give it to the headwaiter - the guy in charge. He tasted it. It wasn't water anymore, but wine! Maybe like grape juice. Where had it come from?! The headwaiter called the groom. He told the groom that usually people serve the best drink first, then the not-so-good tasting. But you! You've saved the best!

READ John 2:11

So what just happened? A miracle! A miracle is something that can't be explained. Through Jesus' power He can do things that no one else can! Wow!

After this He went to Capernaum with His mom, brothers, + disciples.

Jesus is powerful + can do anything!

Since Jesus can do anything, we can know that He + the Father hear us when we pray. They will help us + we can believe they will help us. Nothing is too hard for them!

## Jesus cleanses the Temple

Matthew 21:12-17 Mark 11:15-19 Luke 19:45-48 John 2:13-24

### Review Questions:

1. In what city did Jesus perform His first miracle? Was it in Bethlehem or Cana?
2. What kind of event was Jesus attending when He performed His first miracle?  
Was it a wedding or at a birthday party?
3. What was Jesus' first miracle? Turning water to \_\_\_\_\_ (wine).

### Introduction:

I have a question to ask. Which is more important, worshipping God or having lots of coins? Of course worshipping God is more important than having lots of coins. In today's lesson we are going to learn about some people that were supposed to be worshipping God. Instead of doing that they were buying and selling things to make money.

### Use picture cards as you read John 2:13-24

Source: <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-cleansing-temple/>

- 1 After riding triumphantly into Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple courts.
- 2 He saw that money changers had set up tables in the Temple. There were also traders selling doves to be used for sacrifices. Jesus exclaimed, 'Is it not written, "My house will be called a house of prayer? 'But you have turned it into a den of robbers."'
- 3 Jesus overturned the tables of the corrupt money changers. He overturned the benches of those selling doves.
- 4 Jesus drove out all who were buying or selling and stopped anyone carrying goods through the Temple courts.
- 5 The chief priests and the teachers of the law and the leaders plotted how they could kill Jesus.
- 6 Jesus then left the Temple and returned to Bethany.

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. What made Jesus angry?

The temple was to be a house of \_\_\_\_\_ (prayer), and the merchants had made it a place of profit and cheating.

#### 2. Was it wrong for Jesus to turn over the tables of the money changers?

No, Jesus was God's son. The temple was God's house, the home of Jesus' father. Jesus had authority there. He had the right to chase unwanted cheaters out of his father's house.

#### 3. Did Jesus destroy the property of the money changers?

No, He turned the tables over, but did not damage their property.

#### 4. Is anger sinful?

No, but the way we commonly respond is wrong.

#### 5. What does God want when we worship Him?

A true and honest heart.

**Principles and Applications:**

**1. Our worship to God must be done correctly.** When Jesus arrived at the temple and saw the money changers selling animals in the court yard, He was angry. They were turning the court yard of God's house into a marketplace where they made money. Jesus was so angry that he turned over their tables and forced the merchants out with a whip. Why didn't they belong there? Because the temple was a holy place to worship God.

**2. We must love God and respect His authority.**

**Activity:**

**Coloring sheet: The Cleansing of the Temple**