

SKY

Knowledge
Series 2—Lesson 4

StoryTime



The Boy, the Man, the Temple

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:

John 2:13-17

Lesson Aim:

To teach children how
to behave when we
go to church to worship.

Memory Verse:

“Let your light shine
before men...”
(Psalm 119:15).

Words to Learn:

- Temple
- Money changers
- Worship

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

In order for the fabric of the church to be kept strong, it is important that the membership meet together in humble worship before God. This time of worship is done on both the weekly Sabbath and on the holy days. In these assemblies, we have the responsibility to set the example to our children how to actively worship God (Psalm 100:1–5; 135:1–5), to be instructed from God's Word (Romans 10:13–17), and to fellowship not only with our members of like belief, but also with God and Christ (1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9).

The Scriptures are filled with examples of God's faithful people meeting together and fellowshiping. Jesus' own example was to spend long hours with His disciples whether in formal teaching sessions, such as in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1), or informally, as when eating a meal (Matthew 9:10,11).

After Jesus' death one finds constant reference to the disciples meeting together. Acts 1:13 describes the apostles assembled together “in an upper room.” Acts 2:1 describes the believers as “all with one accord in one place” for the day of Pentecost.

Other verses in Acts show Christians meeting together on the Sabbath day to hear the Word of God (Acts 13:14,42; 16:13). Likewise, the church is exhorted not to “forsake the assembling of ourselves together” for religious worship (Hebrews 10:25).

Even specific instructions are given to the members to “greet one another with a holy kiss” (Romans 16:16). This was a custom of the day and corresponds with the handshake of friendship practiced today.

The key principle to teach from today's story is how to attend church and worship God and Jesus Christ with a proper attitude. The early disciples of Jesus Christ strove to imitate His actions, teachings, and way of life. It is our job to teach our children how to properly

behave at church and Sabbath school classes.

Teach children that according to the Bible, Jesus was very angry when people used a place of worship disrespectfully.

It is a shameful thing to forget why you are there to begin with.

While there is nothing holy in the wood and stone of an earthly building, Jesus reminded us, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

We are missing the very purpose of worship if we gather together and forget Who is among us!

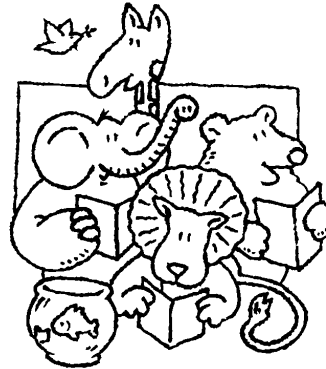
We are to give our children examples to follow in our own behavior: Are we eager to go before God? Are we respectful in our approach to worship? Do we rejoice in song and prayer? Are we attentive?

Jesus told the money changers, "It is written, 'My House shall be called a HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a den of thieves!"

We are to use our gathering to worship the Father and the Son with prayer, song, the Word of God, and loving fellowship! What a blessing to be able to gather together in unity and purpose for a family get-together each week!

God loves us so much. □

Simple 2, 1, 2, 3...



Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Psalm 69:7-9; 100:1-5

Matthew 21:12-14; Mark 11:15-18

Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* Jesus' family went each year to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover—*TRUE*
2. *True or false:* Jesus was very familiar with the Temple—*TRUE*
3. *True or false:* God's House is to be a House of Prayer—*TRUE*
4. Did Jesus become angry when He saw the greedy money changers in the place of worship?—*YES*
5. *True or false:* Jesus made the money changers leave the place of worship because of their shameful actions—*TRUE*
6. *True or false:* Jesus said the money changers had made it a "den of thieves"—*TRUE*
7. *True or false:* Jesus called the lame and the blind to Him to heal them after He had driven out the money changers—*TRUE*

Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

- **Temple**—The house of worship of the Jews in Jerusalem
- **Money changer**—A person who exchanges the money of one country to the money of another country
- **Worship**—giving honor and respect

SKY Story Time

The Boy, the Man the Temple

When Jesus was a little boy his family took Him each year to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of the Passover. The entire family went and it was a happy time (every male was to go if they were able).

Jesus was very familiar with the Temple. It was a very important place to all the people of Israel. A system of offering sacrifices was still in practice.

When Jesus was twelve years old He had been able to sit, listen, and even ask questions of the teachers that taught there. Jesus asked many questions. He surprised the teachers with His ability to understand what they were teaching.

Going to worship at the Temple was a thing Jesus enjoyed doing. He looked forward to it each year—He could go to worship, meet new people, and see old friends each Passover season.

Jesus in the Temple

Our story today is about the day the young man Jesus went to the Temple and found some people using the Temple for their own greedy profit.

It was a wicked thing to do this in a place that was dedicated to worship of God. To make matters worse it was the time of the

Passover and Jerusalem was full of travelers that had come to worship at the Temple.

Just before He entered the Temple He heard the sounds of many different animals coming from within! It sounded like the market place where merchants sold their goods!

Inside He found oxen, sheep, doves, and the men who were selling them. These men were called money changers.

These men would buy and sell the animals right inside the Temple. They had made it a huge market place!

These men would also exchange the visitors' foreign money for Jewish coins.

The Jewish coins were demanded by the priests if you wanted to be allowed to worship in the big Temple.

These money changers would justify their actions by saying they were "helping" the visitors have a way to make an offering. The real truth was that these men were making a lot of money for themselves.

Jesus became very angry when He saw what was happening in God's house of worship.

Jesus Get! Angry

Jesus commanded the men who were selling the animals to GET OUT of the Temple!

Jesus did not become angry easily, so we can see how serious this was.

Many just stood and stared. “Who does this guy think he is telling them to get out of the Temple?” Ha!

When He knocked over their tables and the money went flying, they begin to take Him a little more seriously! The greedy men were not going to leave easily so Jesus had to take a whip and chase them out.

They ran like mice with a cat after them. Many people watched in awe as Jesus ran them out.

They heard Him say, “It is written, ‘My Father’s house shall be called a house of prayer’ but you have made it a den of thieves!”

Many people knew this was true. Those that had come to worship were glad to see these selfish men dealt with.

Afterward Jesus called the blind and the lame to Him and He healed them!

What a wonderful Savior!

Let's talk about it

Jesus wants us to worship God in a proper way. He wants us to come before Him in a worshipful attitude, happy to be given the chance to worship. He also wants us to know why we attend church. Here are some things to think about and try to remember always:

1 *We go to church to obey God.*
On the Sabbath and on the holy days God asks us to be there if we possibly can.

2 *We go to church to show respect to God.* He is important to us and we need Him in our lives.

3 *We go to church to sing songs to God.* We offer praise and thankfulness in songs to our Great and Wonderful God.

4 *We go to church to be united in prayer and our faith.* The Bible calls our thanksgiving prayers an offering we can give.

5 *We go to church to listen to God.* God speaks to us through the reading of His Word—the Holy Bible.

6 *We go to church to visit with our church family.* God wants us to use the principles of the Bible among our brethren. We are not to cause harm or hurt. God wants us to learn to encourage and help others when we can.

7 *We go to church to rejoice.* As brothers and sisters we are thankful for the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus.

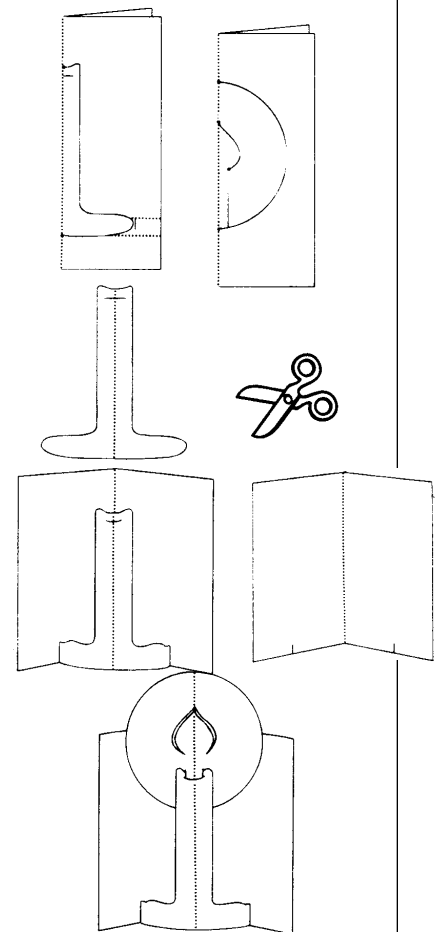
The End

Crafty Ideas

Fold the blue paper in half and cut out the candlestick. 2. Fold and cut the flame out of the yellow paper. 3. Use the red paper for the background: fold in half; cut a 1/2 inch-long slit at the bottom about 3 inches from the fold. Have the children write the memory verse onto the sheet. The flame can be decorated with glitter if desired. Assemble the candlestick to the flame, and attach to the background. □

Crafty Ideas

Children, Shine Your Light



Materials To Use:

- yellow, dark blue, & red construction paper
- colored markers
- scissors
- gold glitter (optional)