LESSON 22



JESUS REBUKES PEOPLE WHO DO WRONG

Aim: **To show the children that God will not tolerate evil, for he is holy.**

Scripture Reading: **Mark 11:15–18; John 2:13–22**

Memory Verse: **Mark 11:17**
"'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations' … But you have made it 'a den of robbers'."

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Ask the class to tell you what kinds of activities take place in a church. They will probably say things like singing, praying, preaching. We also hold celebrations in church, as at Easter and Christmas.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The temple or the house of God is where the Jews worshipped God. When Jesus went there he found some things going on that were very different from the activities you have just named. He did find singing and teaching and praying, but he also saw things that displeased him greatly.
2. Before Jesus died on the cross as the complete sacrifice for all our sins, the Jews had to bring animal sacrifices to set things right with God. Animals for these sacrifices were sold inside the temple compound, which caused much confusion and noise. One also needed special money to buy them, so ordinary money had to be changed for temple money. That was also taking place inside the temple area.
3. Jesus saw that the traders were cheating people. Their prices were far too high. The money-changers were also dishonest and unfair (Jn 2:14).
4. Jesus became very angry, but he was not hot-headed like Samson. Jesus' anger was controlled and justified. **Show Picture 22.** Jesus drove out the dishonest traders as well as their animals (Jn 2:15–17; Mark 11:15–17).
5. Some Jews and their religious leaders were angry and questioned his right to do this (Jn 2:18–22; Mark 11:18). Jesus is the Son of God. That is why he had the right, the authority and the power to drive evil from his Father's house.

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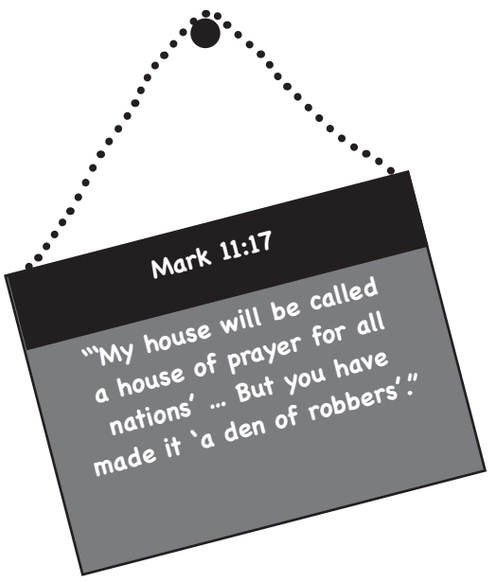
Say the memory verse.

Note: Jesus drove the traders out of the temple twice during his ministry on earth. The first time was at the beginning of his ministry; this is the story told in John's Gospel. The second time was during the week before his crucifixion. This is the story told in Mark's Gospel.

Our Response to the Story

God wants us to honour him when we worship him. We can do this when we have fun as well as when we are serious. God looks in our hearts to see if we mean what we are saying, singing or doing, or whether we are just acting and being dishonest. Read Psalm 150. This psalm is an example of how God wants us to worship him in his house.

Instil the Memory Verse



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