

# LESSON 11: JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Matthew 21:12-17

05/17/2020

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 21:12-17
- In This Passage: Jesus walks into the Temple and sees people selling doves. This is causing a distraction from God in his special place, and Jesus gets mad. He turns over the tables of those selling and speaks out against what they're doing. He stands up for God.
- Bible Point: Jesus stands up for God...
- Application: ...so we stand up for God.
- Summary Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus stands up for God.* One distinction this lesson makes is that standing up for God isn't about judging what everyone is doing; it's about standing up when people do things *in God's name* that don't reflect him. Help kids know how to say something to other Christians when they are doing something in God's name that doesn't reflect God's heart.
- Think About: When have you seen other Christians poorly representing God's heart? When have *you* poorly represented God's heart?

### Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give your kids wisdom to know when and how to stand up for him.

### Quick Tip

- Jesus got mad because selling doves in the Temple was a distraction from God. Consider what elements of *your* environment pull kids' attention away from God. For example, if you have games for kids to play as they arrive, are they still in view when you start your lesson? Do you reward kids with candy or other prizes for bringing Bibles or memorizing verses? While these things may seem harmless at first, they direct kids' attention away from God at a time and place that's meant to be all about him.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers pass something special, talk about standing up for God, and learn an action play.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- picture of your grandparent or someone special to you

#### Easy Prep

- Place the picture under a pile of junk or random things from your room.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers practice an action play to remember to stand up for God.



### OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers use static electricity to make stick figures stand up.

#### Supplies

- 3x2-inch pieces of tissue paper or crepe paper (1 per child)
- marker
- inflated balloons (1 per child)
- transparent tape
- wool blanket

#### Easy Prep

- Draw a smiling stick figure on each piece of tissue paper or crepe paper.
- Using a small piece of tape, tape the edge closest to each stick figure's feet to a tabletop or floor, and leave the other 3 edges free of tape.



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Ring Around the Rosie.



### PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

#### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers practice balancing objects.

#### Supplies

- pool noodles (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



### CRAFT

**Preschoolers make tables that flip over to show Jesus standing up.**

### **Supplies**

- “Toppling Tables” handout (1 per child, printed onto card stock using double-sided printing) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- yellow or gold dot stickers (several per child)

### **Easy Prep**

- Cut out the gray section on each “Toppling Tables” handout.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## Supplies

- Bible

## Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers give someone a “round” of applause by clapping in a circle in front of a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers do jumping jacks as many times as the birthday child is old. With each jumping jack, they’ll say “Happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

## Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that Jesus stands up for God. That might sound like Jesus just stands up with his legs. Have kids stand. But when I say that Jesus stands up for God, that means when people say or do things to hurt God, Jesus is brave and bold. He doesn’t join them, and he tells them how to love God instead. Just for fun, let’s start by talking about standing with our legs.**

## Share

- Share about a time *you* had to stand for a long time. Maybe you were at an amusement park or the airport.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about times *they* stood up for a long time. They might share about a time they were at the mall or a store for a long time or a time they were at a carnival.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

## Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **You all know what it feels like to stand up for a long time—and it’s not always easy. That’s a little bit like standing up for God. Sometimes when people aren’t saying nice things about God, it’s surprising and we don’t know what to say or do. But like Jesus, we can stand up for God by bravely sharing how much we love God and how we want to be friends with God.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for standing up for God.



## Supplies

- Bible
- picture of your grandparent or someone special to you

## Easy Prep

- Place the picture under a pile of junk or random things from your room.

## Find the Picture

Say: **Oh no! I had a picture of my [person in the picture], and I can't find it. [He/she] is so important to me, and I love this picture. Will you help me find it?** Lead kids to the pile of things that are covering the photo.

Say: **I wonder if it could be under this pile of stuff.** Have kids remove objects until the picture comes into view, and then point excitedly. **Look! I think it's there.** Pull it out, and begin to speak as if you're a little upset. **I can't believe it was under all that stuff. This is an important picture of my dear [person in the picture]. I would never want to show disrespect to [person in the picture]. Disrespect is when we don't show that someone or something is very special.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **I want to show respect to [person in the picture] by keeping this picture safe. That's one way I show that [person in the picture] is special and important. Do you want to see the picture?** Let kids pass the picture around the circle to look at it. Remind them that it's very special and to treat it very carefully.

When the photo gets back to you, say: **Thank you for treating my picture with care. That means a lot to me.**

## Talk About Standing Up for God

Show the Bible. Say: **That reminds me of our Bible story today. Jesus went to spend time in God's special house, called the Temple. When he got there, he saw that some people weren't treating God's special house with respect. That means they weren't treating God's special house like it was an important place.**

Share about a place that's very special for *you*.

Ask: • **Tell about a place that's very special for you.** Kids might share about a treehouse they like to play in, a special tent or play structure they have in their homes or at preschool, or a relative's house.

Say: **We all have special places, and we take care of those special places because they're so important to us. The people we spend time with in those places are important, too! That's like the Temple, God's special house. Jesus wanted it to be taken care of. It was a very special place where people could talk to God, but some people weren't taking care of it.**

Share how *you* might feel or what *you* might do if someone had made a mess in your special place.

Ask: • **How would you feel or what would you do if someone made a mess in your special place?**

Say: **None of us would feel good about it if people weren't taking care of our special places. Jesus was angry when he saw how carelessly people were treating God's house, so Jesus stood up for God. He made the people who were messing up God's house leave. Jesus stands up for God because God is the one who made us, and he's the one who gives us *everything* we have.**

## Learn an Action Play

Say: **Jesus shows us how to stand up for God, too. We can do that by telling others we love God if they say something unkind about him. We can also take care of his special house, our church. And we can help others know the true stories we've learned from the Bible. These are all ways we can stand up for God, like Jesus did. Let's learn something fun to help us remember that.** Lead kids in this action play.

Jesus always stands up for God. (*point up, nod head*)

And we can stand up for God! (*put hands on hips, stomp foot*)

**When others say or do unkind things toward God,** *(show sad face and shake head)*

**We will stand up for God by** [have kids shout out ways, such as sharing true stories from the Bible, taking care of the church, or telling others we love God]. *(put hands on hips, then cheer.)*

Say: **Jesus stands up for God, and we can, too!**



Stand Up

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**Practice an Action Play**

Say: **Today we found out that Jesus stands up for God, so we stand up for God, too. Let's practice the action play we learned in our Bible activity to remember what that means.** Lead kids in this action play.

**Jesus always stands up for God.** (*point up, nod head*)

**And we can stand up for God!** (*put hands on hips, stomp foot*)

**When others say or do unkind things toward God,** (*show sad face and shake head*)

**We will stand up for God by** [have kids shout out ways, such as sharing true stories from the Bible, taking care of the church, or telling others we love God]. (*put hands on hips, then cheer.*)

**Ask Jesus for Help**

Say: **Jesus stands up for God, and when we're friends with him, he helps us stand up for God, too.**

Share an example of a time *you* stood up for God. Maybe someone was taking God's name in vain and you asked that person to not use God's name like that. Or maybe someone said something bad about your church, and you shared how God had taught you something through the church.

Invite kids to share about anything they need help with this week to stand up for God. They might not have anything to share, but allow a moment for them to speak up. Then lead kids in a prayer, asking Jesus for help with standing up for God.

Say: **Friends, I'm so glad you were here today to learn with us about Jesus. Please come back next week for some more fun and learning.**



### Supplies

- 3x2-inch pieces of tissue paper or crepe paper (1 per child)
- marker
- inflated balloons (1 per child)
- transparent tape
- wool blanket

### Easy Prep

- Draw a smiling stick figure on each piece of tissue paper or crepe paper.
- Using a small piece of tape, tape the edge closest to each stick figure's feet to a tabletop or floor, and leave the other 3 edges free of tape.

### Tip

- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

### Demonstrate for Kids

Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus stood up for God. Let's use balloons to make these little people stand up!**

- Have each child stand or sit in front of a stick figure that's taped down.
- Demonstrate the experience first to show kids what to do: Vigorously rub a balloon on your hair or a wool blanket to charge the balloon.
- Hold the charged part of the balloon above a stick figure. The balloon will attract the paper and make the stick figure stand up.

### Charge Balloons

- Give each child an inflated balloon
- Have kids vigorously rub the balloons on their hair or a wool blanket. (You may have to help younger preschoolers.) Have kids count to 10 with you while they rub.

### Make Stick Figures Stand Up

- Have each child hold the charged side of a balloon above a stick figure so it stands up.
- Let kids experiment and play. They can recharge the balloons and see how long the stick figures will stand up.

### Talk About It

Say: **At first, our stick-figure friends were lying down. But the balloons helped them stand up! Like them, we can stand up for God when we're bold and brave. Jesus always stands up for God by sharing how much he loves God and helping others love and respect God, too. When we're friends with Jesus, we can stand up for God. Like the balloons helped our stick figures, Jesus will help us!**



### Pop Up, Stand Up

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#### Play a Version of Ring Around the Rosie

Say: **In today's Bible story, Jesus was very serious about standing up for God. He saw people doing things that hurt God, and he told them what was right. Jesus stands up for God, and we can, too! Let's play a fun game about standing up!**

- Have everyone sit in a circle and then get into a crab-walk position.
- Everyone will crab-walk around the circle while singing the following song to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie."

**We follow our Jesus.**

**We follow our Jesus.**

**Stand up, stand up!**

**Stand up for God!** (*on "God," pop up to a standing position*)

- As everyone gets comfortable with the words and the movements in the game, speed up the song to make it more challenging, more fun, and more high-energy.
- You could even do a silly version of the song the kids will love by singing and moving to the song in super-slow motion. Ham it up and get the kids giggling!

#### Talk About It

Say: **It was really fun to stand up in the game! But standing up for God doesn't really mean standing up with our bodies; standing up for someone means something like this:** Share an example of a time you stood up for someone else, such as telling the truth about someone when you heard a lie or telling others to stop being mean to a friend.

Ask: • **What are ways you can bravely stand up for others?** Preschoolers might tell about asking friends to give back a toy to someone they'd taken it from or asking someone to be their friend when others are picking on that person.

Say: **Like we stand up for friends, we can stand up for God, too. We can encourage friends to love and be friends with God. Sometimes we might hear people saying mean or untrue things about God, and that's when we can stand up for God. Jesus stands up for God, and if we're not sure how to stand up for God, we can always talk to Jesus about it, and he'll help us.**



### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))

### Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: **Hi, friends!** *(Pants.)* **My back is so itchy today. Would you scratch my back?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.)*

Leader: **Thanks for giving a friendly welcome to Theo, kids!**

Theo: *(Sighs.)*

Leader: **What was that sigh for, Theo?**

Theo: *(Sighs.)* **Oh, I feel sad.**

Leader: **How come?**

Theo: **Someone at school said...** *(Growls.)* **...said church is dumb.**

Leader: *(Looks sad.)* **Really? That's too bad. Church definitely isn't dumb.**

Theo: **I know! I love church!** *(Looks to kids.)* **Don't you?** *(Leads kids to give a cheer for church.)*

Leader: **When your friend said that, what did you do?**

Theo: **I said, "Church is fun and I learn about God at church. I love God."** *(Smiles.)* **And then I told my friend that he could learn about my friend God at church, too!**

Leader: **Good for you, Theo! That makes me think of our Bible story today.**

Theo: **Really? What happened in the Bible?** *(Invites kids to share what happened in the Bible story.)*

Leader: *(Helps kids share parts of the Bible story.)* **Jesus stood up for God. He told the people to take care of God's special house, and he told everyone how amazing God is.**

Theo: **Jesus is the best at standing up for God!**

Leader: **He is, and we were just learning something to help us remember that.**

Theo: **Really!?** *(Looks to kids.)* **Will you teach me?** *(Jumps excitedly.)*

Leader: *(Helps kids teach Theo each line of the action play and the motions.)*

**Jesus always stands up for God.** *(point up, nod head)*

**And we can stand up for God!** (*put hands on hips, stomp foot*)

**When others say or do unkind things toward God,** (*show sad face and shake head*)

**We will stand up for God by** [have kids shout out ways, such as sharing true stories from the Bible, taking care of the church, or telling others we love God]. (*put hands on hips, then cheer.*)

Theo: (*Points up and nods his head as he says:*) **Jesus always stands up for God!** (*Looks to kids.*) **Let's do the whole thing together!** (*Leads kids in repeating the action play several times together.*)

Leader: **You sure did catch on fast, Theo!**

Theo: **Thank you! I think I'm going to go show my mom!**

Leader: **Great idea, Theo! Let's give Theo a "woof, woof, goodbye"!** (*Leads kids in a "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.*)



### Supplies

- pool noodles (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

### Balance Standing Pool Noodles

Say: **Today's Bible story helped us see how Jesus stands up for God. Let's play a fun game that's all about standing up!**

- Have kids find a partner, and give each pair a pool noodle.
- Allow partners to work together to balance a pool noodle between them by standing the pool noodle on the floor on one end and then letting go to see if it'll stand or wobble.
- Pairs can swap pool noodles to see if different pool noodles give them new challenges.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **What helped your pool noodle stand the best?**

Say: **You figured out ways to help your pool noodles stand up strong. I bet we can figure out ways to stand up for God, too. When we stand up for people, that means we stick with them and don't leave them behind, we say kind things about them, and we love them even when others aren't being nice to them. So I wonder...**

Ask: • **What do you think it means to stand up for God?** Share a preschool-friendly example of a way you've stood up for God or seen someone else stand up for God. Maybe you've asked someone to say "Oh my goodness" or some other alternative instead of using God's name in a disrespectful way. Or maybe you've told others that it's true that God is real, even if someone else has told them differently.

Say: **Like Jesus did, sometimes we'll see or hear things that aren't true about God. Jesus stands up for God when that happens, and we can stand up for God, too. We can say and show the truth about God and his love for everyone.**



## CRAFT

### Toppling Tables

[20 min]

### Supplies

- “Toppling Tables” handout (1 per child, printed onto card stock using double-sided printing) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- yellow or gold dot stickers (several per child)

### Easy Prep

- Cut out the gray section on each “Toppling Tables” handout.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### Make Tables

Say: **In our Bible story, we heard how Jesus stands up for God, and we can, too. There were people in the Bible who weren't treating God's house like a special place, and Jesus didn't like it. Jesus knocked over their tables, and their coins fell on the floor. Jesus told them to love and care for God's special house. Let's make something to help us remember what Jesus did in the Bible story.**

- Have each child color the Jesus figure on one side of the handout.
- Have each child color the doves on the other side of the handout. Around the doves, kids can add yellow or gold dot stickers to make coins.
- Help kids fold on the dashed lines to turn their handouts into tables. The Jesus figure should be on the underside of each table.



### **Stand Up**

Have kids set up their tables with the doves and coins on top. Say: **In our Bible story, the people in the Temple were selling doves and collecting coins. But Jesus didn't like that, so he stood up for God. He even flipped the tables to show that what they were doing was wrong!**

Have kids stand their tables on end to show Jesus standing upright. Say: **Jesus stands up for God, so we stand up for God!**

Allow time for preschoolers to practice using their crafts to tell the Bible story.

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