

JESUS AT PASSOVER

JOHN 2



KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 3:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God's glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin.

STORY POINT: Jesus knew people's sin and cleaned out the temple.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' cleaning of the temple reveals His holiness as the Messiah and His willingness to take on our sin so that we, too, may be cleansed. In this passage, Jesus demonstrated His desire to honor His Father and do His will—a foretaste of the lengths He would go to cleanse us of our sin when we trust Him by faith.

Jesus confronted the immorality taking place in His Father's house; however, He was not reacting rashly. Scripture tells us He took time to fashion a whip out of cords. Imagine Jesus weaving each cord while He pondered the holiness of His Father in heaven. Christ displayed His authority as the Son of God as He fulfilled the Passover tradition of cleansing one's home of leaven.

God's temple was to be a place of worship and prayer, not a marketplace for people to turn a profit. As the disciples witnessed the scene unfolding before them, they recalled the words of Psalm 69:9, that zeal for the house of God would consume the Messiah. They watched Him cast off the sinful social norms of their day as He fulfilled the will of the everlasting Father.

When the Jews questioned Jesus' authority in the temple, He responded with these prophetic words: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." They failed, however, to realize that He wasn't speaking about the structure in which they stood; rather, He declared that though His body would soon be destroyed on the cross, He would rise again after three days' time.

Pray that the children you teach will recognize the holiness of God and the willingness of His Son to take on the punishment we deserve for our sins. Lead them to see that Christ has already borne our shame on the cross and completed the work needed to secure our salvation. May they turn to Him to be cleansed of their sin.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Jesus at Passover Maze" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- play money, stuffed animals, etc.
- large baskets or buckets, 2

Session Starter (Option 2)

- clear sheet protectors
- dry erase markers and erasers
- paper towels



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- bowl
- trash can

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "Jesus at Passover" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Bible-times costume (optional)

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 21, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Central Asia Map" printable
- "Dave and Amy Knotts in Central Asia" printable

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ How does it make you feel when you see someone doing something wrong? Have you ever confronted someone when you saw them doing something wrong? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Jesus at Passover Maze” on the activity page.

SAY “ Today we will learn how Jesus traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. During His time in Jerusalem, **JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE.** ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TEMPLE CLEAN UP

Before this activity, scatter play money, coins, stuffed animals, and other objects around the room. Form kids into two teams, one on each side of the room. Give each team a large basket or bucket to keep on their side. When you say Go!, direct kids to run around the room and pick up as many objects as they can and place them in their teams’ buckets. Continue until all objects have been collected, then count the number of objects each team collected. The team who collects the most objects wins. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “ Today we will learn that people were using God’s temple as a place of business rather than a place of worship and prayer.

JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE. ”

OPTION 2: JESUS CLEANSSES US

Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a piece of paper and a clear sheet protector to each kid. Place crayons, colored pencils, markers, and erasers in the center of each table. Challenge kids to draw portraits of themselves and then place them inside the clear sheet protector. Once kids have finished drawing, direct them to use dry erase markers to mark all over their portrait by drawing on the sheet protector. Discuss how dirty each portrait is and explain that this marker represents sin. Then, encourage kids to use the erasers to clean their portraits and remove the marker. Explain that this is what Jesus does. He cleanses people from sin when they believe in Him.

SAY “ Today we will learn how **JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE.** Jesus took the punishment for our sin and cleanses us from sin when we trust Him as Savior. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, kids! I’m so glad you’re here today! My name is [your name], and today we get to study a true story from God’s Word together. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.] Today we will continue to learn about Jesus’ ministry on earth. Last week, we learned about Jesus’ first miracle where He turned water into wine. This week, we will see Jesus going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. While He was there, He made an upsetting discovery about God’s temple. I am looking forward to sharing more of this story with you in a few minutes. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Each time we meet, we like to think about a big picture question and answer. Does anyone remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **Did Jesus ever sin?** Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **No, Jesus never sinned.** Through today’s story we will see that Jesus honored God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. Jesus cleanses us of our sin when we trust in Him. He is the only one who could pay the price for all sin because He is sinless. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Jesus’ ministry on earth continued. Last week, we learned about Jesus’ first miracle where He turned water into wine. This miracle revealed His glory and showed that He is God. Today’s story takes place as Jesus was going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. We will see how **JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus at Passover.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS AT PASSOVER

“Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When He arrived at the temple, Jesus saw people selling oxen, sheep, and doves. He also saw money changers sitting in the temple. This made Jesus angry because the temple was a place of worship and prayer—not a house of business.

Jesus made a whip, and He drove everyone out of the temple—all the merchants with their sheep and oxen. He poured out all the coins from the money changers and turned over all their tables. “Get these things out of here!” He said. “Stop making my Father’s house into a house of business!”

His disciples remembered how David said the Messiah would be overwhelmed with great love and respect for God’s house.

Then the Jews said, “What sign will you show us for doing these things?”

Jesus replied, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.”

The Jews responded. “This temple took 46 years to build. How will you raise it up in three days?”

But Jesus wasn’t speaking about the temple of God. Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body. Later, after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered Jesus said these things. The disciples believed the Scriptures and what Jesus had said that day.

As Jesus remained in Jerusalem during the Passover, many believed in His name when they saw the signs He was doing. But Jesus didn’t entrust his life to them. He didn’t need anyone to tell him what people were like because He already knew the sin that was inside of people.

Christ Connection: Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God’s glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Dress the part: Dress in costume and tell the story from the perspective of a witness of Jesus cleansing the temple.

Relocate: Tell the story in a different place. If you usually tell the story in one area of the room, move to a different area, move to the floor, or even go outside.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Jesus traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, which was a big celebration for the Jewish people where they remembered how God protected them



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

and rescued them out of Egypt. During His time there, Jesus visited the temple. He became angry over what He saw. Instead of people using the temple to worship and pray, they were using it as a place of business. Jesus knew the people's sin and cleansed the temple. After seeing this, the Jews asked Jesus to show them a sign. Jesus told the people to destroy this temple, and He would raise it up again. What temple was He talking about? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus was foreshadowing what would happen on the cross. He would die, and His body would be put in a tomb, but on the third day He would rise from the dead. The Bible tells us that the disciples remembered these words after Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Many people in Jerusalem believed in Jesus, but the Bible tells us that Jesus did not entrust His life to them. Why? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus knew that all people are sinful and in need of a Savior. That is why He was sent by God—to save people from their sins.

Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God's glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? Jesus took the punishment for our sin. When we trust Him as our Savior, He cleanses us from sin and helps us become more like Him. Please come see me if you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why do we go to church instead of worshiping at home?
2. What are some things you do during church that might not honor God? What can you do that would honor God?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Point to the map. Talk about some of the countries that make up Central Asia.

Ask kids what the word *technology* means. Point out that it usually refers to the use of new inventions or innovation in a particular field. There might be medical technology or electronic technology that provides new and better ways to do things. Explain that Dave and Amy Knotts are using technology in Central Asia to help people know about Jesus.

Show the “Dave and Amy Knotts in Central Asia” printable to the kids.

Mention that digital technologies can allow missionaries to send a specific message to a certain group of people in a particular area or city. Sometimes the messages are general messages about Jesus, and sometimes they are specific to an individual, inviting the person to meet with someone in person to learn more about Jesus or inviting the person to a local church.

Ask kids to imagine they are making a short video to tell someone about Jesus. What would they say in the video? Optional: Encourage them to write down some ideas that the video might use.

Pray for the Knotts as they are seeking to provide effective digital content for women in Central Asia. Pray for the Knotts’ request that people with digital skills like computer programmers, graphic designers, and artificial-intelligence engineers will work with them on their missions team, either as volunteers or missionaries.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 John 3:5 together.

Gather kids in one group and encourage them to listen closely as you begin reading the key passage aloud. Pause every few words and invite kids to shout out the next word of the key passage. Continue reading the key passage, leaving out different words for the kids to fill in.

SAY “ I hope you will continue to work on memorizing our key passage. It helps remind us of who Jesus is. ”

Lead kids to sing “No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank you, Lord, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life on earth and die on the cross to pay the price for our sins. Help us to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 2. Explain that John is one of the four books of the Bible that tell of Jesus' ministry. Each of these books was written from different perspectives since God used different human authors to write them as they were led by the Holy Spirit.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 2:16-17, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ When Jesus entered the temple and saw how it was being misused, He was filled with holy anger. God’s temple was meant to be a place of worship and prayer, but instead it was being used as a marketplace. What the people were doing was sinful. **JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE.** We should feel this way about sin in our own lives and take steps to get rid of sin. Any time we recognize sin in our lives, we should confess it to the Lord, who will cleanse us and help us live a life free from the control of sin. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why was Jesus so serious about keeping the temple holy? ”

God takes sin very seriously, so when Jesus saw the sin happening in God’s temple, He did not let it continue. We should feel the same way about sin in our lives. We should be on guard against sin, but when we do see sin in our lives, we need to drive it out and ask for forgiveness.

SAY “ Are most people good? ”

The Bible tells us that all people have sinned against God. That means that we all need a Savior to be rescued from the punishment our sin demands. There are many nice, kind, and generous people in the world, but we have all sinned against the Lord and need His forgiveness.

SAY “ Who paid the price for our sins? ”

Jesus paid the price for our sins. He was the only perfect sacrifice because He lived a perfect life, free from sin. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, He cleanses us from our sin.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Prior to the session, write different scenarios on pieces of paper. The scenarios should include sinful examples, such as bullying someone, and sinless examples, such as sitting with a new kid at lunch. Place a trash can and bowl of scenarios on a table in front of the kids. Invite a volunteer to come to the front and select a paper out of the bowl. Assist him in reading the scenario he drew. Then challenge the group to think about whether this scenario is something sinful that needs to be cleaned out of a person's life or something good that is honoring to God and should remain in a person's life. If it is something that should be cleaned out, direct the kid to throw it into the trash can. Repeat with different volunteers until all the scenarios have been drawn out of the bowl.

SAY “ Today’s story showed us that **JESUS KNEW PEOPLE’S SIN AND CLEANED OUT THE TEMPLE.** God wants to clean out our hearts and get rid of sins or distractions that are keeping us from living a full life as His child. ”

OPTION 2: OLD TESTAMENT OR NEW?



Before this activity, designate one side of the room as the *Old Testament* side and one as the *New Testament* side. Direct kids to line up in the center of the room. Challenge them to listen closely as you call out the name of a book of the Bible. Direct them to run to the Old Testament side of the room if that book is found in the Old Testament and run to the New Testament side of the room if it is found in the New Testament. Kids who run to the wrong side of the room are out for this round. Continue the round until there is one winner. Then, repeat, inviting all the kids to play again.

SAY “ It is important and exciting to learn how the Bible is arranged. Knowing the order of the Bible will help us throughout our entire lives as we study God’s Word. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.