



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 45

# King of Righteousness

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is the King of right and wrong. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 21:12-13

**Key Verse:** 1 Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

**We will help kids know:**

- Jesus is the King of right and wrong.
- He made the temple right for the sacrifice.
- He made the sacrifice for us.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Convicted of the areas in their lives where they are full of trash.
- Reassured that Jesus *wants* them to be clean.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify those areas in their lives where Jesus needs to come in and clean.
- Resolve with the Spirit's help to not let Satan rule in those areas.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids picture Jesus sitting next to them while watching their favorite TV show or movie as a test to see if they are putting trash into their minds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• entertainment section out of the newspaper</li> <li>• remote control, each shepherd may bring one for his group (<i>optional</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8-9  9  10-11  12-13	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness"  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i>  <b>Optional Activity:</b> "Eyewitness Special Report"  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy dressed as a news reporter (possibly with glasses and a tie)</li> <li>• Sam, a super slick salesman dressed in period costume</li> <li>• news desk with sign on front that reads "Passover Week 30 A.D."</li> <li>• banner that reads, "News Center K-I-N-G"</li> <li>• video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i> (Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997) cued to Matthew 21:12-13</li> </ul> <p><i>For optional activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reporter (could be the large group presenter or an actor)</li> <li>• video camera</li> <li>• TV or imager</li> <li>• cord to connect the video camera and imager</li> <li>• microphone</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-7	Kids discuss some areas where they may have a lot of "pollution" in their lives. Then they use a "Jesus Stick" to knock sins off the table the same way Jesus cleared out the temple.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• five to eight pieces of four by six-inch papers for each child</li> <li>• pencil or marker for each child</li> <li>• "Jesus Stick" (a rolled up sheet of newspaper taped to form a stick)</li> <li>• baggie of pretzel sticks for each child</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Spread out the entertainment section of the newspaper out and let the kids look at the movie section.

**Today, I have a special entertainment package available for you. We will be going to the movies *and* watching your favorite TV show. What movies do you like? What are your favorite shows?**

**Now pretend you are going to see one of these shows with a friend. Or maybe you have a favorite movie that isn't on the list that you would like to see. Can you picture yourself in the movie theater? Are you sitting in the movie theater next to your friend?**

**Now picture Jesus sitting on the other side of you. Is anything going to happen in this movie that you would be embarrassed to let Jesus see? Would you want him to go get popcorn if you knew a bad scene was coming?**

**Let's do something that you probably do every single day. This is the part of the entertainment package where you get to watch TV. I bet you love to watch TV.**

If you brought your remote control, pass it around to the kids and let them pretend to turn a TV on. As they click the remote to their favorite show, have them tell you what they are watching. If you didn't bring a remote, they can pretend to click.

**Now let's all kick back and watch our show. My remote is in the center of the table.**

Place remote in the center of the group. Then say:

**As you're watching this show in your mind, pretend your friend Jesus is sitting next to you. Would there be some times during the show that Jesus would reach for the remote control and turn it off?**

If the kids don't think so, ask some discerning questions regarding language on the show, violence, people who aren't married living together, the way kids treat their parents, etc.

**Did you feel comfortable having Jesus sitting with you at the theater and in your living room watching TV?**

There are probably many times when it wouldn't feel right. That's because the Holy Spirit is working and letting us know that we are polluting his spirit in our body. First Corinthians 3:16 says, "Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

When Jesus lived on earth a long time ago, people worshiped in churches called temples. They went to the temple and made sacrifices of animals to cover their sins. The temple was where God's spirit dwelled. But after Jesus died on the cross, all that changed. Instead of dwelling in the temple buildings, God's Spirit can now dwell in our hearts when we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Discuss with the kids the fact that they are God's temple. They are set apart just like the temple was in the Bible for holy use, for service to God. They are holy to God, set apart to be pure and clean. If you have extra time, they can start memorizing the key verse.

Today we are going to see what happened the day after Palm Sunday when Jesus went into the temple. We will learn that *\*Jesus is the King of right and wrong.*

## **Large Group: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### **Overview**

**Puppet Presentation:** "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness"---Gordy interviews Sam the Salesman, a moneychanger at the temple in 30 A.D. Gordy learns that just as Jesus cleared the temple of wrong doing, he also wants us to clean up our lives since we are each a temple of God.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Matthew 21:12-13*

**Optional Activity:** "Eyewitness Special Report"

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness"

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Matthew 21:12-13 in their Bibles.

**What did Jesus see when he went into the temple that caused him to be sad and angry?** *(Matthew 21:12. Jesus saw people buying and selling things. They were overcharging and cheating people.) Why did this make him sad?*

**What did Jesus want the temple changed into?** *(Matthew 21:13. He wanted it to be a house of prayer.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Why did Jesus clean up the temple?** *(He wanted it to be clean for the sacrifice that would happen later that week on Good Friday.)*

**Jesus wants to clean us up too. What do we need to do so Jesus can clean us up?** *(By true repentance, not just saying we are sorry but actually changing things in our lives, we clean ourselves up. The Spirit gives us the power to clean up and receive the sacrifice Jesus made for us.)*

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

**Where can you go to find out what areas of our lives need to be cleaned up?** *(The Bible. Jesus gives us very clear directions of what is right and wrong in our lives.)*

**What areas do you need cleaned up? Think on that for a few minutes. Do you have some areas where there is a lot of "trash" or "pollution"?**

Allow a short time for thought and then discuss some areas where the kids may have a lot of pollution. Lead the discussion by doing the following activity.

Application Activity:

Hand each child a pencil or marker and several pieces of paper. You will also need a "Jesus Stick." To make a Jesus stick, roll up and tape the entertainment section used in the warm-up activity.

**Do you sometimes have mean thoughts? If so write down one of those mean thoughts.**

*If you have younger kids in your group, you might have them draw those things.*

**Now crumple up that piece of paper and put it in front of you. This is your trash pile.**

**Have you told a joke that wasn't good? Is it something you would tell Jesus? If you have, draw a sad face on a sheet of paper and crumple it up. Pile it in front of you.**

**Have you ever said something like "Oh God"? Do you ever use God's name in vain? Do you sometimes say bad words? Write a sentence to tell God what you have done. Crumple it up.**

**Have you ever played a video game that had a lot of violence in it? Would it be something you would share with Jesus? Draw a picture of it and then crumple it up.**

Do the same with movies, television, and other areas the kids struggle with.

**Look at the pile of trash in front of you. It is huge. Do you know what? You are the temple of God. He wants to clean you up.**

**One at a time, I'd like you to put your trash in the middle of the table. As you do, say to God how sorry you are and ask him to help you change. Then I'll let you use this "Jesus Stick" to knock your sins off the table the same way Jesus cleared out the temple.**

Go first and model this yourself. (This may get a little chaotic but help the kids stay focused on Jesus wanting to clean them up.)

Conclude this activity by saying:

**Today we learned that *\*Jesus is the King of right and wrong.* Our key verse for the day, 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, "*Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*" What does this mean in your own words?**

**We know the Holy Spirit lives in us when we feel uncomfortable about bad things we see or do. Jesus wants to clear the sin out of our lives, and he does this by forgiving us when we repent. He then**

**fills our lives and gives us opportunities to do better the next time we face temptation. *\*Jesus is the King of right and wrong.***

Closing Prayer:

Move into prayer time right now having the kids be very specific about areas that have been full of trash in their life. Ask Jesus to help clean them up.

Take Home:

Give each child a baggie of stick pretzels to take home. They can use these to help remind them of the “Jesus Stick” when they are tempted to allow an area to be trashed again in their life. They can eat a pretzel at that point to help remind them to remember ***\*Jesus the King of right and wrong.***

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# **“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness”**

Puppet Presentation

Setting: A desk is at the center of News Studio K-I-N-G. A banner is hung above the desk that reads “News Center K-I-N-G.” On the front of the desk should be a sign that reads “Passover Week 30 A.D.”

Characters:

**Gordy:** dressed as a news reporter, possibly wearing a tie and glasses

**Sam:** super slick salesman in a period costume

**Mr. King:** large group presenter

**Mr. King:** **Boys and girls, let’s journey back to Jerusalem in Passover week, 30 A.D. (Motioning toward the news desk.) Where is our newscaster? Where’s Gordy? Maybe we need to call for him.**

*(Kids chant, “Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!”)*

**Gordy:** *(Popping up from behind the desk.)* Oh, hi boys and girls... *(Lowers voice.)* I mean, good morning viewing audience. Welcome to K-I-N-G Eyewitness News. Here we are live in Jerusalem reporting on what’s hot and what’s not this Passover week in the year 30 A.D. And here with me today is...umm... *(Looking down.)* Do you have it yet?

**Mr. King:** **Wait a minute, Gordy. Who are you talking too? Who’s down there?**

**Gordy:** This is Samuel, the super slick salesman.

**Sam:** *(Pops his head up briefly and then disappears.)* **You can just call me Sam.**

**Mr. King:** **Well, what’s he looking for?**

**Gordy:** Oh, it’s a mess down here. There are coins down here and pieces of birdcages.

**Mr. King:** **Wait a minute. Birdcages?**

**Gordy:** Yes, there it is! The hot story in Jerusalem this day is broken birdcages.

**Mr. King:** **Now wait a minute, Gordy. I can’t believe that’s a hot story. How can birdcages be a hot story?**

**Sam:** *(Appears.) I'll tell you a hot story. I'm a hot story. I'm hot! I'm a hot salesman. Those broken birdcages used to be working birdcages with doves in them.*

**Mr. King:** What's so hot about that?

Gordy: Well, maybe they had hot wings. *(Laughs.)*

**Sam:** *It's not wings that are hot here. It's Sam, the super slick salesman. There I was in the temple courts selling doves for sacrifices for all the visitors in Jerusalem this week. After all this is Passover you know!*

Gordy: They know, I already told them. Passover, 30 A.D.

**Sam:** *Well anyway, this man, some kind of religious maniac, comes in with a big stick and starts smashing the cages and turning over the moneychangers' tables.*

**Mr. King:** Sounds like he was kind of hot!

**Sam:** *Yeah, he was mad all right. He kept going on about his house being called a "house of prayer." But if I get a hold of him, he's going to need a little bit more than a prayer. I'll clip his wings.*

Gordy: Well, here you have it. The hot story that's just breaking. The salesmen are hot. It seems this guy, Jesus, is hot and *I'm* hot.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, are you hot?

Gordy: Sure. I'm hot because I'm the news anchor for eyewitness news K-I-N-G. I'm hot and you're not Mr. King. Just kidding, Mr. King. Let's go to the live action reporting with cameras filming just as it happens.

Show Matthew 21:12-13 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Matthew*.

# Eyewitness Special Report

## Optional Activity

The following is an *optional* activity that might supplement the puppet presentation or even replace it. It can be abbreviated easily since you can determine the number of questions asked to the audience. A K-I-N-G reporter (the large group presenter or an actor) goes into the audience with another person shooting video of the interviews. If a video camera is hooked up to a television with a cable, the kids interviewed will be "live" on the newscast.

Following the Matthew 21:12-13 video, the screen flashes "Special Report" and then goes to K-I-N-G reporter.

**Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, K-I-N-G's Eyewitness Reporter. I'm here outside the temple in Jerusalem. As you may recall, we have been following Jesus. In our last report, he had just entered the city and received a king's welcome from the people. Everyone was singing and laughing as they greeted Jesus.**

**Today, however, the mood is much different. From what I have gathered, it seems Jesus caused a scene just inside the temple. Let me see if I can talk to some of the "eyewitnesses" and find out exactly what just took place.**

The reporter then goes into the "crowd" and begins to ask the following questions.



**When Jesus came into the temple, how did he look? Was he happy to see the people there? (No, he was angry.)**



**What did Jesus do when he entered the temple? (He turned over the tables.)**



**What was on the tables Jesus turned over? (Money and doves.)**



**This is incredible! Did Jesus give an explanation as to why he turned the tables over and why he was so angry?**

*(Yes. He said it was written, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.")*



**What did Jesus mean by a "den of robbers" instead of a "house of prayer"? (People were making the church like a store or garage sale. They were not there to worship God.)**

**Thanks to the help of these great "eye witnesses," once again, I think we know what happened in the temple today. When Jesus came to the temple instead of finding people worshiping God and praying, he**

found people had turned this wonderful place into a marketplace. In fact, people were even cheating each other.

Jesus became very angry and turned the tables over in an effort to wake people up and make them realize what they were doing was wrong. *\*Jesus is the King of right and wrong.* He's not afraid to point out what is right and wrong and challenge people to do what is right. Jesus was and is willing to step into our lives through his death on the cross and clean us and make us right with God.

That's all for now! I heard Jesus was going to spend the night in Bethany. Stay tuned as we watch the rest of this incredible story unfold. This is \_\_\_\_\_, K-I-N-G's Eyewitness Reporter

# **“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News Meet the King of Righteousness”**

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: That was a quick story.

**Sam:** *Quick! Yeah, like a tornado is quick! But look at the mess it leaves!*

**Mr. King:** Don't you know why Jesus threw over your table?

Gordy: Yeah. Don't you know? What's wrong with you anyway? *(Pauses.)* Why *did* he do it, Mr. King?

**Mr. King:** What did Jesus say?

Gordy: He said, “My house will be a house of prayer. But you have made it a den of robbers.”

**Sam:** *Hey, who are you calling a robber? I'm just making a living like any other guy. What's wrong with that? Why would Jesus be upset? First of all, people needed to buy doves to sacrifice them for their temple worship, right?*

Gordy: I thought people sacrificed lambs back in Jesus' day?

**Mr. King:** That's true. But if they were really poor, they could use a dove instead.

**Sam:** *See? I'm just selling something they all needed.*

**Mr. King:** Yes, but how much were you selling them for?

**Sam:** *I had to charge people something.*

**Mr. King:** But you didn't have to charge them so much that they couldn't afford it!

Gordy: Ooh...That's bad.

**Mr. King:** And the people couldn't use Roman coins or any coin other than a Jewish temple coin to buy the animals for sacrifice.

Gordy: How did they get the Jewish temple coins?

**Sam:** *I have some for sale if you need some.*

**Mr. King:** I know you do. And that is why Jesus got so upset. You were charging people way too much to trade their Roman coins for Jewish coins. You were getting rich by taking advantage of people who were trying to worship. All of your tables made it so crowded right outside the temple, people couldn't even worship.

**Sam:** *Now wait a minute...*

Gordy: Let's see you get out of this one, Mr. Slick Sam.

**Sam:** *But I was just doing my job. Everyone else thought it was okay!*

**Mr. King:** But *\*Jesus is the King of what's right and what's wrong.* He wants his temple cleaned out from all the wrong stuff that gets in the way of people getting closer to God.

**Sam:** *But did he still have to knock over all my money?*

Gordy: Face it, Sam, Jesus cleaned you out!

**Sam:** *Well! I can tell when I'm not wanted. I'm out of here. (Exits.)*

Gordy: I'm glad Jesus cleaned him out.

**Mr. King:** Hang on, Gordy. Today in our application time we'll find out that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that Jesus wants to clean them out, too!

Gordy: What are you talking about?

**Mr. King:** Just wait! God has some clean-up work to do with all of us. We'll find out more as we go to our small groups. Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving your life as a sacrifice for us. Before you went to the cross, you cleaned out the temple of the people who were just trying to make money there. We know you are the *\*King of right and wrong.* Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Show us what we need to clean up in our lives, especially if we are letting stuff into our minds that is trash. Thank you for hearing our prayers. Amen.

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. I'm going back to look for trash...like missing coins that Sam might have left behind.

**Mr. King:** Okay, Gordy. But don't be surprised if you find some other types of trash that Jesus may want cleaned out as well.