



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 45

# Don't Put Junk in God's Temple (We Are His Temple!)

**Primary Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 6:16b

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 6:16b, "...Clearly, we are the temple of the living God."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids are immersed in a culture of ungodly influences. They are bombarded with messages from television and movies that do not have a Christian world-view. Kids need to make discerning choices and reject the opportunities to fill their minds with television and movie images that are not God pleasing. Also, they encounter friends and peers who might lead them away from a dynamic relationship with Christ. They need to be aware of the influences they fill their minds and hearts with. As they see themselves as living temples of God's presence cleansed with his forgiveness, they would want to honor their temple and his presence by not putting in any junk.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus sacrificed himself for us so we would be cleansed and can serve him.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, inhabits the souls of his believers. They become his temple, the place where his glory dwells.

**Jesus through us:** Just as the presence of God in the Old Testament temple drew people to come and worship him, so it is for Christians today. They become fragrant offerings or sacrifices that witness God's presence to the world.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber for Worship:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies:*

- picture of an Old Testament temple

Show kids the picture of an Old Testament temple and explain that it was a place of sacrifice and worship to the Lord. People offered up animals such as lambs or bulls. God received such sacrifices as a payment for the sin of the people.

Then review the event of Solomon's temple dedication in 2 Chronicles 5-7, especially noting 5:14. This scripture says that the priests experienced the cloud of the Lord's glory coming into the temple at the dedication. The priests couldn't serve in the temple as a result. God's full presence was too awesome.

**Kids, can you imagine what it would be like to have something like the awesome presence of God come into this room like a big cloud? It would be so wonderful that we couldn't even stand it. We would have to run out of the room.**

**The temple of Bible times isn't around anymore. It was destroyed. And God doesn't often come down like that anymore. But guess what? God has another temple he wants to fill up with his presence. Do you know what that is? It is us—you, me, and anyone who trusts in Jesus as his Savior.**

**Let's offer a sacrifice, not of animals, but of our love in our songs. See if you feel the Lord filling you with his glory as you worship.**

# Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

## Attention Grabber for Theme:

*Keep the children's attention on worship and the message of the day.*

*Supplies:*

- garbage can
- poster board
- water-based markers that have had their felt tips dipped in food coloring the same color as the marker (red, orange, green, blue, purple, brown)
- drop cloth for the mess
- clear bowl of water
- hat with a five-foot length of hose coming out the top and a funnel attached to the hose's end (The hat could possibly be made from a milk jug.)



**Kids, could you imagine taking this garbage can and going to the front of the church and dumping garbage out all over? Can you imagine all that trash in a very sacred and holy place? Yuck!**

**Listen to what the Bible says. “Clearly, we are the temple of the living God.” (2 Corinthians 6:16) What would it be like if we poured all this garbage into our souls? Double yuck!**

Next, write words on a poster board with several water-based markers that have had their tips dipped into food coloring of the same color. These markers are called the “Soul Supplier–Brain Feeders.” One by one, the markers are uncapped and used to write the following words on the poster board. Then each marker is swirled in a clear bowl of water. The combination of colors makes a rather yucky final color.

**Red stands for “Bad TV Shows and Movies.”**

Write the phrase “Bad TV Shows and Movies.” Then swirl the marker in the bowl of water.

**This red marker is for junk TV shows with too much violence or bad language. They might be bad, scary shows. Or these shows might depict people breaking God’s rules about marriage. Give some examples.**

*Another marker could be added to depict movies that aren’t good for kids to watch, like R-rated and many PG-13 movies that have messages that don’t follow God’s ways.*

**Orange stands for “Using God’s Name in Vain.”**

Write this on the poster and rinse the marker in water.

**This orange marker is for using God’s name like a dirty rag. This is like someone who says, “Oh, God” just as a matter of expression. This is taking the name of our Holy God and using it like it was an old rag.**

**Purple stands for “Ungodly Music.”**

Continue as previously with the markers.

**This purple marker is for music we listen to that might sing about doing things God wouldn’t want us to do.**

**Green is for “Envy.” This green marker is for looking at all the nice toys, big houses, or stuff that other people have and saying to yourself, “Wow! If I only had that stuff, I would be happy. I want it so badly I even wish they didn’t have it.”**

**Blue is for “Violent Video.” This blue marker is for video games that make it seem fun to hurt or kill people.**

Maybe the kids can give you examples of inappropriate video games.

**Brown is for “Drugs and Drunkenness.” This brown marker is for using bad drugs or getting drunk on alcohol.**

By now, you should have a bowl of pretty yucky water. Have a volunteer come forward and have him put on the “Soul Supplier-Brain Feeder.”

The “Soul Supplier-Brain Feeder” is some type of special hat with a five-foot piece of hose coming out the top. At the end of this hose, a funnel is taped. It should look as if water poured into the funnel could be poured onto the person’s head.

Pretend that you are going to pour the yucky water into the funnel and therefore into the brain and soul of the person wearing the contraption. Then say:

**Well kids, should I pour it in?**

*Everyone will probably say, “Yes!” Don’t pour the water. Instead, save it for the next activity. Continue with:*

But how would you like it if someone poured gunk like this right onto your head? It would be terrible. Or worse yet, what if it went inside your brain? This is like what happens when we let bad stuff into our “soul supplier—brain feeder.” The problem is that it really does pollute God’s temple.

Remember we are the temple of God. God doesn’t want us to let all this junk into his temple. We need to get this stuff washed up and cleaned out of our lives. We are God’s temple, so keep the junk out.

## The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies:*

- *strip of white sheet fabric 4 x 16-inches*
- *strip of white sheet fabric 4 x 22-inches*
- *clothespins*
- *bowl of dirty water made in Attention Grabber for Theme*
- *pail of one part bleach and two parts water*
- *colored poster board or poster board covered with dark tissue paper*

Have available one 4 x 16-inch strip of white fabric and one 4 x 22-inch strip of white fabric. Attach each strip of fabric to a clothespin. Dip each strip into the contaminated water to stain. *(Don’t hold it in too long to soak up too much stain.)*

Then place the strips of fabric in a pail of one part bleach and two parts water. During this process, say:

**We need to tell God about the junk things we let in our hearts and brains.**

Have the children take some time to confess sins. Then say:

**The Bible tells us, “If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we’ve done wrong.” (1 John 1:9.)**

**God will cleanse us from all our junk through his forgiveness. But that doesn’t mean we can automatically forget about the junk we filled our minds with. Sometimes the memory is still with us for a while. But God can help us stop filling our minds with junk. Let’s pray for that now.**

Lead the prayer yourself or have the kids pray.

Now hold up the strips of cloth. The bleached water will have lifted out the marker ink. Place the two strips on a colored piece of poster board or on a poster board that has some dark tissue paper on it. Place the strips in the shape of a cross. As the water soaks in, it will displace the ink in the poster board or tissue paper making the mark of the cross.

**Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the temples of our bodies are made clean. Our sins are forgiven so we can learn to fill our lives with what God wants and not the junk that pollutes us. We are God's temple so keep the junk out.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

*Supplies:*

- *several hula hoops or four-foot rope circles on the floor*

Have on the floor several hula hoops or four-foot rope circles. At the time of offering, the children can put their money offerings in the plate and then go stand in one of the circles. Explain this is a symbolic way they can express giving God all of themselves and their lives.



# The Word

## Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

Read Ephesians 2:21-22. Then discuss again how we are God's temples, so we must keep the junk out.

## Learning Event:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning event provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Supplies:

- video: McGee and Me: The Not-So-Great Escape (*Focus on the Family*, 1999)

*Due to a movie in today's lesson, the learning game is omitted.*

Watch the 30-minute Focus on the Family video, "McGee and Me: The Not-So-Great Escape." In this episode Nick's friend, Louis, invites Nick to attend the latest horror movie. Nick's parents refuse to give him permission to go. Upon Louis' encouragement, Nicholas decides to sneak out and go to the movie. The boys devise an elaborate escape plan but when Nick gets home, he finds out his absence has been discovered. Nick's parents make sure he will remember to be careful what he allows in his mind.



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

**What would you have done if you were Nick in the movie we just saw?**

**When it seems that everyone else you know gets to go to a movie but you can't, what is something you could do instead?**

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*



# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber for Worship:*

- picture of an Old Testament temple

## *Attention Grabber for Theme:*

- garbage can
- poster board
- water-based markers that have had their felt tips dipped in food coloring the same color as the marker (*red, orange, green, blue, purple, brown*)
- drop cloth for the mess
- clear bowl of water
- hat with a five-foot length of hose coming out the top and a funnel attached to the hose's end. (*The hat could possibly be made from a milk jug.*) See picture on page 3 of lesson.

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- strip of white sheet fabric 4 x 16-inches
- strip of white sheet fabric 4 x 22-inches
- clothespins
- bowl of dirty water made in *Attention Grabber for Theme*
- pail of one part bleach and two parts water
- colored poster board or poster board covered with dark tissue paper

## *Offering:*

- several hula hoops or four-foot rope circles on the floor

## *Learning Event:*

- video: *McGee and Me: The Not-So-Great Escape* (Focus on the Family, 1999)—order from <http://www.family.org/resources/itempg.cfm?itemid=4674>

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