

2

Worship

We praise God for His great love.

POWER TEXT

"'It is written,' he said to them, '"My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers"'" (Matthew 21:13).

KEY REFERENCES

- John 2:13-25
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 16, pp. 154-166
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 134-138
- Student story on page 32 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 3, The Father
- No. 4, The Son

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the place where they worship God is sacred.
- **Feel** that God wants them to be reverent when they worship Him.
- **Respond** by being reverent in God's house.

More Pigeons Than Prayer

POWERPOINT

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus journeys from Capernaum to Jerusalem to take part in the Jewish Passover service. When He arrives, He discovers that there is business going on in the temple. Animals are being sold for sacrifices; money is being exchanged. Instead of the sounds of worship, there is noise and confusion. Jesus takes charge, reminding people that God's house is a place for worshiping Him, showing respect and reverence in His presence.

This is a lesson about worship.

Showing reverence and respect in God's house is an acknowledgment that He is present and that we are there in response to His great love.

Teacher Enrichment

"This was Jesus' First Cleansing of the Temple, His first act of national importance. By it He declared His right to administer the affairs of the Temple and announced His mission as the Messiah. The second cleansing occurred three years later, at the fourth Passover . . . as a reminder that His claim was still valid. . . .

"Again and again the Jews criticized Jesus for speaking of God as His Father. . . . They also claimed God as their Father (John 8:41), but realized that Jesus did so in a higher sense. They perceived that, in these words, Jesus set forth an unqualified claim to divinity. At the second cleansing Jesus spoke of the Temple as 'my house' (Matt. 21:13, KJV), and when the leaders rejected His final appeal the following day He referred to it as 'your house' (Matt. 23:38, KJV)" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 923).

Why is God's house important to me? How do I honor God's house?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. My Response* *B. Postures of Praise*	newsprint or brown paper, markers, pencils, crayons written Bible texts, chenille wire or thin wire or modeling clay
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 27. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, white/chalkboard and markers/chalk OR picture illustrating a church
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	six copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 146) Bible costume for an adult Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Through Other Eyes*	paper, pencils/pens
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Welcome to This H.O.P.*	paper, pencils/pens
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ newsprint or brown paper
- ☐ markers, pencils, or crayons

My Response

Create a "Praise Board" on one wall with a large expanse of banner, newsprint, or brown paper. In large letters write "WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GREAT LOVE WHEN WE . . ." Have a supply of colored markers, pencils, or crayons. As students arrive, invite them to express their thoughts by writing their responses on the banner. This can be kept and added to as students arrive during the next three weeks.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some ways that we respond to God's love?** (Have students read and elaborate on what they have put on the Praise Board.) **Which of the things you wrote on the board would you consider worship?** (Encourage discussion.)

The power text reminds us of how important it is to maintain a reverent and worshipful atmosphere in God's house. Let's say it together:

" 'It is written,' he said to them, ' "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers" ' " (Matthew 21:13).

We are reminded in our power point that

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty expressing their thoughts in writing to work with a partner who could assist them.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ written Bible texts
- ☐ chenille wire
- ☐ OR thin wire
- ☐ OR modeling clay

Postures of Praise

Place each of the following Bible texts on a piece of paper: Psalm 5:7 (attitude, bow, reverence); Psalm 95:1, 2 (song and praise); Malachi 3:10 (giving/offerings); Luke 10:39-42 (listening); Psalm 68:26 (praise). Duplicate to make enough for each student to have a paper with a text. Have enough pipe cleaner (chenille wire) or thin wire (or modeling clay) to give each student two or three pieces.

Say: **There are many ways we worship God. Read the text and then bend and twist your wires into a shape that represents the worship described in your text.** When they have finished, have students share their handiworks while the others guess what form of worship it represents.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what type of worship do you engage most frequently? Why? Let's say our power text together, Matthew 21:13:**

" 'It is written,' he said to them, ' "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers" ' " (Matthew 21:13).

How does worship show God that we love Him? What other responses to God's love might we consider worship?

Say: **Let's repeat together our power point,**

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could assist them.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Father, We Love You" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 37)
"Majesty" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 67)
"I Will Call Upon the Lord" (*Praise Time*, no. 32)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Encourage students to offer their free will offerings as an act of worship. Explain to them that worship to God is much more than singing and praying. Worship relates to every aspect of our lives, including our gifts of money to help advance the mission work of our church.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard and markers/chalk
- ☐ OR picture illustrating a church

Draw a simple picture of a church and then discuss how grateful we can be for God's house. Example: grateful for a ***door*** of welcome, a ***foundation*** of truth, a ***roof*** of safety, ***walls*** of strength, loving family members that fill the ***pews***, etc. Close with a prayer that we will always love and respect God's house. Pray also for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:

Introducing the Bible Story

- ☐ six scripts (p. 146)

***The* Net Kids**

You will need six scripts for the students (see p. 146). You can either have them memorize the parts a week ahead or give them the script Sabbath morning. To introduce the *Net Kids,* say: **The *Net Kids* are an imaginary international group of children ages 11-14 who communicate regularly through email. Emiko and Darren met in a teen Christian chat room and found out that they were both Seventh-day Adventists. They then created a chat room for Adventist juniors and teens, and the other four joined. They get together as often as they can through the internet.**

Ulla: 11-year-old girl, Sweden
Ivan: 12-year-old boy, Russia
Tendai: 12-year-old boy, Zimbabwe
Ana: 13-year-old girl, U.S.A.
Darren: 13-year-old boy, Australia
Emiko: 14-year-old girl, Japan

Arrange the students at desks, or chairs turned around as desks if no desks are available. Have them tap as they read their part to simulate typing at a computer keyboard. Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some other things you wouldn't do to someone you love? How are these things like or unlike the way we sometimes treat God?** Talk about ways that our behavior in church can show God that we love and respect Him.

YOU NEED:

Experiencing the Story

- ☐ adult in costume

Have an adult dress up in a Bible costume and come to the classroom. Tell the students that you are going to pretend that he was at the temple at Jerusalem when something unusual happened. Have him tell the story from John 2:13-25 as if he had observed it. (Variation: you could interview him and allow questions from the students if your guest is comfortable with that impromptu format.)

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

Exploring the Bible

- ☐ Bibles

Have the students find Matthew 21:12-16. Ask someone to read it aloud. Say: **Jesus cleansed the temple two times, once at the beginning of His ministry, and once near the end. Why? Because Jesus wanted everyone to be able to find God there. The greedy way the priests were acting was interfering with worship. It is important to have a reverent and worshipful atmosphere in God's house.**

Let's say our power text together, Matthew 21:13:

" 'It is written,' he said to them, ' "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers" ' " (Matthew 21:13).

Remember:

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

YOU NEED:

Through Other Eyes

- ☐ paper and pencils/pens

Ask: **What are some things that happen in our church that might not be very worshipful? What could we do to help keep God's house a place for worship and prayer?**

Arrange students in groups of four or five. Give groups paper and pencils. Say: **I want you to think about what Jesus would see if He came to our church today. Let's start with our Sabbath School room.** Then allow the students to search other areas of the church, finding things that need to be cleaned or fixed.

Debriefing

Groups will share their lists. Ask: **What can we do to make our church more reverent? What is more important than the building we worship in?** (The attitude we have when we worship.) **What do you think shows a reverent attitude?**

Say: **As we are reminded in our power point,**

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens

Welcome to This H.O.P.

Ask students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to talk to someone about their church. Ask: **What do you enjoy most about coming to church? Did you have a chance to share with someone your joy of being part of a church community? Did you try to invite any of your friends to church?**

Contact your pastor or head elder about the junior class being responsible for greeting next Sabbath, or even possibly on a regular rotating schedule. Let the juniors design a "welcome" handout and even name tags to wear on their Sabbath to greet. The name tags could read: "Welcome, I [heart picture] this H.O.P." (symbolizing "I love this House of Prayer.") The handouts might read: "The Junior Sabbath School class welcomes you to God's House of Prayer."

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will help the students feel a responsibility to keep their meeting place a place of true worship.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus reads in the synagogue. We respond to God's love when we worship Jesus.**

Notes

Student lesson

More Pigeons Than Prayer

Can you remember a time you came into a room and were shocked at what you saw? Whether it was a good surprise or a bad surprise, it was definitely not what you had expected to find there. Imagine this surprise.

A young temple worker forked more straw into the sheep pen. He didn't think he'd ever get the job done. Lambs crowded against his legs. Passover meant a lot more work for him.

A temple priest called anxiously for him to come and help. The lunch his mother had packed would have to wait. With the last of the straw in place, the young worker left the holding pen and walked to the vendor's courtyard. Looking around, he found that the temple was more like a marketplace than a place to worship God.

As he came closer, the noise grew until the sounds were deafening. Making his way through the crowd, the boy observed the scene that unfolded before his eyes. After traveling for days, people were forced to pay the last of their money to buy overpriced birds and animals for their sacrifices.

The boy's father had taught him that the priests were to assist the needy. Instead, what he saw was that the priests and merchants cheated people to get the greatest profit possible from selling animals for the sacrifices. Day after day he watched. Gradually, bitter disappointment settled in his heart. He did not see this as true worship.

A shout of "Hurry up!" brought him back to reality.

Arriving at the booth where he'd been called, the boy was asked to take the shekels for the pigeons and doves. He did not remember ever seeing this many poor people in Jerusalem for Passover.

Everything became a blur as the young worker took money and handed out birds for the poor people's sacrifice. Sweat trickled down his back as he struggled to keep up with the demands of the buyers. His head throbbed from the hubbub that surrounded him.

Reaching out for an old man's shekel, the boy heard the wail. Curious, he turned to look in the same direction as the old man had looked. Shocked by the scene, he let his mouth drop open. The mass confusion was worse now. Everywhere people pushed and shoved one another, fright on their faces.

Screaming, "It's HIM!" a merchant pointed back in the direction he had come, desperately trying to get away. Jumping over the table at the booth, the boy forced his way toward where the man had pointed.

All at once the worker saw the answer to his question. Instead of flashing swords, shields, and Roman uniforms, there was a man with a whip.

The stranger was speaking. "Get these out of here!" He commanded. "Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" (John 2:16).

Finally the crowd hushed. The animals stopped their bawling. The stranger seated Himself with children on His lap and at His feet.

The young temple worker crept closer, wanting to learn more about this man. Turning to a woman standing beside him, he asked who this stranger was.

She had heard that His name was Jesus. Somebody else said He was from Nazareth.

Jesus spoke words of comfort to the believers who gathered around Him. He told them of God's goodness and assured them of His love. Jesus wanted them to understand His deep sorrow because His Father's House was turned into a marketplace and many faithful worshipers were mistreated by the religious leaders.

The boy's eyes met Jesus' gentle gaze. That kind look made him feel as if Jesus were telling him, "Don't let the example of the priests turn you away from God." The young temple worker felt peace as Jesus' loving words refreshed his soul like sweet melody. His joy found expression in heartfelt praise to God.

KEY REFERENCES

- John 2:13-25
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 16, pp. 154-166
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 134-138
- Our Beliefs nos. 12, 3, 4

POWER TEXT

" 'It is written,' he said to them, ' "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers" ' " (Matthew 21:13).

POWER POINT

Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read Jeremiah 7:11 and this week's story, "More Pigeons Than Prayer."

CREATE Draw a lamb and write on it the power text.

PRAY Ask God to accept your heartfelt worship.

Monday

READ Read John 2:13–15.

TELL Tell the story to a younger child, describing what Jesus saw as He walked into the temple.

SHARE Share with someone the joy of being part of a church community.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise Jesus for His presence in your life.

Tuesday

READ Read John 2:16.

THINK Why do you think Jesus spoke to the people who sold doves? Why did He raise His voice?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to say at the right time and in the right way.

Wednesday

READ Read John 2:17.

RESEARCH This verse appears in the Old Testament too. Try to find where it appears by using verse notes or the index in a Bible, or use a concordance. If necessary, ask an adult for help. Look for the key words *zeal* and *consume*. Write down the reference. Be ready to share it in class on Sabbath.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the guidance He offers in His Word.

Thursday

READ Read John 2:18.

THINK What does the word *authority* mean? Why did the Jews ask for a sign of Jesus' authority?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, list three or four people you know who have "authority" of some kind. Beside each name, write what authority they have.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Tell God that you accept His authority in your life.

Friday

READ Read John 2:19–22.

CREATE With a younger child, create a temple scene in a box. Think of things you have around the house that you could use to add to the scene (i.e., sticks for making a table, tiny aluminum foil coins, toy animals, paper cutouts).

DISCUSS Discuss with your family how you can create a special worship place in your home.

REPEAT Share the power text with someone.

PRAY Ask God to give you a better understanding of how to worship Him.