

4

Purifying the Temple

Community
We reveal God's love in our families.

POWER TEXT

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD' " (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 29
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 28, pp. 331-339
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 127-132
- Student lesson on page 52 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 21, Stewardship

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that we reflect God's love in our church family when we worship together.
- **Feel** joy at how God works among us as we worship together.
- **Respond** by letting God work through them in His church.

POWERPOINT

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Hezekiah reestablishes the worship of God in the Temple. He opens the doors that had been shut to worshippers, instructs the ministers, and leads out in the worship services. All the people rejoice at what God has accomplished for His people.

This is a lesson about community.

Worshipping together is an important aspect of being a part of the church family. God wants us to have fellowship with other believers in the church community so that we may grow together.

Teacher Enrichment

Hezekiah found the Temple in a shocking state of neglect and misuse. This reflected the spiritual condition of the people. He therefore took upon himself two tasks: (1) to restore the Temple and make it appropriate for conducting worship services and (2) to help restore the relationship of the people with God by making the Temple accessible for worship.

Hezekiah gave the task of restoring the Temple top priority in the first month of the first year of his reign. For the people, the Temple meant access to God, but the Temple was locked when Hezekiah came to the throne (2 Chron. 29:3). "An open temple meant that worship and prayer could proceed in its courts and that God's grace and blessing could be invoked" (Leslie C. Allen, *1, 2 Chronicles*, The Communicator's Commentary, Old Testament [Waco, Tex.: Word, Inc., 1987], vol. 10, p. 371).

How important is it to worship with my church family? What blessings do I miss if I choose not to worship with the church family?

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	10-15	*A. Reflections*	
		B. Community of Believers	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, paper, pencils
		C. Collective Worship	Bibles, paper, pencils, markers, musical instruments, hymnals and songbooks
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 47. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, decorated offering box
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, Bible commentary (optional)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Billboard Contest*	poster paper, markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

Reflections

Divide students into pairs. Have the pairs line up with partners facing each other. The partners on one side will do actions and make facial expressions that their partner is to mirror as closely as possible. After about a minute or so, reverse roles.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was it like to mirror someone else? When do we tend to mirror others in real life?** (when we belong to a group; when we admire someone or spend a lot of time with them) **How do you sometimes mirror the things people do or the way they act?**

Say: **Now let's think about our church family. Who and what are we mirroring when we worship together?** (If we are truly worshipping, we are reflecting our relationship with God to others.) **Let's say together our power text, Psalm 122:1:**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD' " (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

By rejoicing together as we worship the Lord, we are reflecting God's love to one another.

Let's repeat the message of our power point:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Community of Believers

Write the following texts on the board: Psalm 50:5; Psalm 107:32; Isaiah 66:23; Matthew 18:20; and Hebrews 10:25. Ask students to find the texts. Ask: **Why do you think we are to worship together? What does God do through our community worship? Alone or in small groups, write a poem or a short skit to illustrate your point**.

Give time for students to share their creations with the rest of the group.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is God's purpose in having us fellowship together when we worship? What does He accomplish through it? Let's say together our power text:**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD' " (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

By rejoicing together as we worship the Lord, we are reflecting God's love to one another. The power point reminds us that

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

Prayer & Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ markers
- ☐ musical instruments
- ☐ hymnals and song books

Collective Worship

Brainstorm with students ways in which we worship God at home, at church, at school or in other group settings. Have students write or draw about their concept of worshipping God collectively, with other believers (i.e., draw the church in prayer).

If any of the students play musical instruments, have them play several well-known hymns or choruses together while the other participants join in singing.

Debriefing

Ask: **What collective worship ideas did you illustrate or write about? Share with the other students. How are these ways helping us to connect in worship with God? How can you use these worship ideas to express your praise and gratitude to God for all that He has done for us? How does music help us express our praise to God?**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD' " (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

Let's keep in mind the message of the power point:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

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. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Suggested Songs

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

"Clap Your Hands" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 13)
"Behold, Bless Ye the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 9)
"My Heart Overflows" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 8)
"Let Us Come Together" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 16)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ decorated box

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

Continue to use the decorated offering box. Before you collect the offering, ask for two or three volunteers to explain how the giving of offering is a form of worship.

Prayer

Ask voluteer to pray over the offerings. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Every family usually has one member who is considered the messiest housekeeper.** Then introduce this week's lesson by observing that there have also been times when members of God's family have allowed their places of worship to become messy. **The power point reminds us that**

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Bible commentary (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Have the class take turns reading from 2 Chronicles 29 aloud. Then divide the class into two groups and give them the following tasks, preferably in written form as well (If possible, provide a Bible commentary):

Group 1: From verses 15-17 find out what was involved in the purification of the Temple. List the things that the priests and Levites did to purify it. Try to explain the significance of each part of the purification ceremony.

Group 2: From verses 20-35 find out what were the components of the first service in the purified Temple. List them and explain the significance of each component.

Give students time to find answers and then gather them together to give a summary. Repeat the power point.

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Organize the Sabbath School class into groups of three or four. Have each group read carefully Acts 20:1-12, 36, and compile a list of worship activities mentioned. When the groups have had time to compile their lists, ask them to report their work, making a master list on the board. From the master list, choose one worship activity that the group considers to be used least among themselves. Plan for ways to make this activity a part of Sabbath School several times in the remainder of the quarter.

Say: **Let's say together our power text, Psalm 122:1:**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD' " (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

Let's remember the power point:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

Scenario

Read the following scenario aloud to your students:

Antonio has been studying about worship and the church community with his older sister. He's really excited to see a practical application for their church worship, as he's always wondered what the purpose and need in worshipping together was. He wants to know how he can reflect God's love in his church when worshipping.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what practical ways can he show God's love through worship with his church? How have you experienced God's love from members of your church?**

Let's say the power point together:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ poster paper
- ☐ markers

Billboard Contest

Have students share if they had the chance to connect with someone during the week to work together on a church project or if they have organized something in their home. Ask: **What did you learn from working together to clean or organize your home or your church? How would you describe your experiences?**

Allow the students to work in groups to design billboards with slogans that communicate the power point:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

Each group presents its billboard to the class. Display billboards in a hallway or common area.

Debriefing

How can you share this message with others? How can you let God work through you in His church? Let's repeat once again the power point:

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.

(Adapted from Wes Haystead and Tom Prinz, *5th and 6th Grade Smart Pages* [Gospel Light], p. 92. Used by permission.)

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear God, thank You for the opportunity to be part of a community of believers that worship You. Please give us the desire to be involved in Your church. Amen.**

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: **Hezekiah hosts the Passover. We worship joyfully together.**

Notes

Student lesson

Purifying the Temple

Does your mom or dad ever get after you to clean your room? Is it a mess, with dirty clothes lying on the floor, piles of things you are "saving," schoolbooks stacked up, your bed unmade? If it is, you can relate to the condition of the Temple before a new king cleaned it up.

King Joash may have depended on his uncle Jehoiada too much. It's possible he never learned to do the right thing just because it was right, instead of just because his uncle told him to do it. We may never know. But what we do know is that after Jehoiada died, Joash was persuaded to allow the people to worship pagan gods instead of the God of heaven.

Things got so bad, in fact, that when Joash's own cousin, Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, warned the people that God couldn't bless them while they turned against Him, the king approved the murder of Zechariah. How soon Joash had forgotten about how Uncle Jehoiada had saved his life and promoted him to the throne of Israel!

But, as was the custom, it was soon "payback time." After a serious defeat by the Syrian army, during which Joash was injured, the king was murdered in his own bed by two of his officials. This was done to avenge the death of Zechariah.

The worship of the true God continued to be neglected through four generations of kings. But finally Joash's great-great-great-grandson Hezekiah became king at the age of 25. His own father had smashed all the articles in the Temple that were used for worship and closed its doors. Then, he had set up altars on every street corner in Jerusalem so the people could worship idols. Hezekiah must have watched his father do these things. An uncomfortable distance must have been created between them since they didn't think alike; the father hated God, and the son quietly loved God. The country was in a mess.

Jerusalem was attacked again and again by hostile armies who killed the young men and captured the young women and children and took them away as hostages. These were horrifying years, and all because God's people had tried to copy the worship of those other countries rather than staying true to Him.

But finally King Hezekiah came to power. He determined to make things right again. The first thing he had to do was to ask the priests to rededicate themselves to the Lord's work.

"Listen to me, Levites!" Hezekiah called to the priests. "Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your ancestors. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary" (2 Chronicles 29:5, NIV).

Hezekiah and the priests determined to repair the Temple to show their love and respect for God. The Temple had been locked and unused for years. Everything that had been used for the worship of God was broken or stolen; things used for the worship of false gods lay strewn on the floor.

But within two weeks the Temple was ready to be dedicated to God once more. The mess was gone. The floors were swept clean. The marble shone. New furniture was in place. Now all was ready in the courtyard in preparation for the great celebration of dedication.

And what a celebration it was! There was a huge crowd that stayed nearly all day. Throughout the Temple groups of priests played harps and cymbals as the people toured the beautiful building. Then it was time for the great sacrificial offerings like those their ancestors had presented to God in the desert. Seven young bulls and seven rams were killed as the first offering. Then the priests placed their hands on the heads of seven male goats and symbolically transferred the sins of the people to the goats that were then sacrificed.

Finally seven male lambs were offered to the Lord. The lambs represented the Messiah, the Lamb of God, whose death would save them.

The huge crowd began to sing praises to God. Some of the priests blew their trumpets along with the singing. Other instruments accompanied the singing as well. They continued this praise throughout the day until the entire offering was consumed. Then they brought their own offering, 600 bulls, 3,000 sheep, and 3,000 goats. They had a joyful celebration with their friends while worshipping God. The sense of peace that comes from honoring and praising God was felt once again in Jerusalem.

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 29
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 28, pp. 331-339
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 127-132
- Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 11, 21

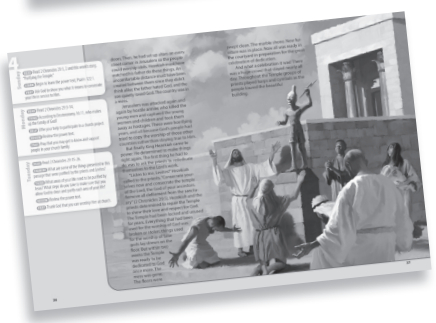
POWER TEXT

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1, NIV).

POWER POINT

When we worship together, we reflect God's love to our church family.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 29:1, 2 and this week's story, "Purifying the Temple."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Psalm 122:1.

PRAY Ask God to show you what it means to consecrate your life in service to Him.

Monday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 29:3–14.

THINK According to Deuteronomy 16:11, who makes up the family of God?

HELP Offer your help to participate in a church project.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you may get to know and support people in your church family.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 29:15–26.

EXAMINE What are some of the things presented in this passage that were purified by the priests and Levites?

THINK What areas of your life need to be purified by Jesus? What steps do you take to make sure that you allow God to clean and purify each area of your life?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that you can worship Him at church.

Wednesday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 29:27–36.

WRITE Create a church program that involves church members in the various aspects of the worship service. You may draw an illustration of how you view praising God with others in the church community.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for your church family.

Thursday

READ Read Psalm 9.

WRITE After reading the above text, write your own psalm of thanks to God for what He has done for you.

CLEAN Clean and/or reorganize something in your life that has needed it for some time: a closet, dresser drawers, school locker, etc. As you do so, think about the experience of King Hezekiah cleaning out the Temple. What area of your heart needs purifying?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help keep your life "clean" and pure.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 51:10.

ACT At family worship, act out the Bible story found in 2 Chronicles 29.

SING Sing your favorite worship song with your family.

THINK By purifying our bodies with a clean lifestyle, we make them a fit dwelling for the Spirit of God. What can you do to make your body healthier? What can you do to make your heart cleaner?

REPEAT Say the power text by memory.

PRAY Ask God to help keep your body clean and pure.