

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 7 • Week 1

CHRIST CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

OBJECTIVE:

To explain the difference between human anger and godly righteous anger and to show when it is proper to have godly anger.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: How many of you have become very, very angry with another person, perhaps even your brother or sister? Why did you get angry with them?

Say: Today, we are going to start this lesson with a short quiz to find out why we become angry most of the time and whether or not it was right to become angry.

Ask: Question 1: You became angry most of the time because they hurt you physically, yes or no?

Question 2: You became angry most of the time because they hurt your feelings, yes or no?

Question 3: You became angry, not because they hurt you, but because you knew they were doing things God doesn't like, yes or no?

Do: Discuss for a minute or two when they would have been right in becoming angry.

Say: Jesus Christ—the only one to ever live a completely righteous life—became angry too. Let's hear the story of one occasion when this happened so we can learn when we should and when we should not be angry.

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: How many of you know what the house of God was when Jesus was alive?

Say: Here's a picture of the temple during the time of Christ.

Do: Show a picture from a Bible resource such as *Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*. Point out the different sections including where Christ threw out the money changers.

Say: Jesus most likely saw this area when He went to the temple at the age of 12. There were animals running around, people selling sacrificial animals, tax collectors, money changers and other businesses. Even at His young age, He was probably struck by the beauty and purity of God's temple but shocked, sickened, and angered by the lack of reverence around God's house.

When Christ returned to Jerusalem just before He was crucified, the huge commercial business had grown worse around the temple grounds. There were more businesses established that dealt with the services and ceremonies of temple worship. A person could supply his own animal for sacrifice, but it had to be a perfect animal. Therefore, some had a business of providing suitable animals. It had become the general practice to purchase sacrificial animals at the temple. It was an extensive business—high prices were charged, and huge profits were made. Though some of the money made its way to the temple treasury, a large part may have gone into the hands of the ruling priest families. Not only this, but banking and money exchange was carried on within the temple grounds. The money changers conducted a banking business for profit.

Jesus Christ walked into the midst of this just before His crucifixion. He knew he was going to die. Perhaps He felt it was His last chance to rid His Father's house of corruption before He died. Perhaps He saw someone being overcharged for an animal, or charged a huge tax for some item being bought. He could stand it no longer.

Ask: Could one of you read what happened?

Do: Have a student read Mark 11:15-17.

Say: Jesus Christ was very, very angry, wasn't He?

Ask: Was Jesus angry because of what people did to Him? Did Christ have the right to get angry?

Say: Christ was bothered by the practice of making religion a business.

Do: Ask if the students think of ways now where religion is basically a commercial venture: Christmas, Easter, Hanukkah.

Say: Christ hated it when the poor were taken advantage of, when people treated them unfairly.

Ask: Is it right for us to be angry when people keep Christmas and break God's laws in other ways?

- Do: Explain why we need to use wisdom in saying something to others when we are angry so that it will not backfire on us (see Proverbs 9:7-9).
- Say: Christ had all the emotions that we have as human beings. He was very angry with the Pharisees for making God's religion corrupt. He cried (John 11:35). And He got angry. But there is a big difference between Jesus Christ and us, isn't there?
- Ask: When we get angry because we are hurt or someone hurts our feelings, what do we do?
- Say: We try to think of ways that we can pay them back! Christ did get angry, but He never sinned. As Christians, we are supposed to become like Christ.
- Ask: What should we get angry about and what should we NOT get angry about?
- Do: Generate a list as a class.
- Ask: Could one of you read Galatians 5:19-21?
- Say: All of these "works of the flesh" are sins. Whenever we become angry and are jealous, hateful, resentful, revengeful, etc., that is the wrong type of anger. So let's read what the Bible says about anger in Ephesians 4:26: "Be angry, and do not sin."

LESSON APPLICATION:

- Do: Have the children draw and color a picture in two parts:
1. Something that we, as Christians, should get angry about.
2. Something we, as Christians, should not get angry about.
- Say: In a couple of lessons, we will be discussing forgiveness. Begin thinking of ways that we can be more forgiving and not become angry when we are picked on, made fun of, teased, put down or humiliated. How can we become more Christ-like in our actions toward others?

MUSIC:

Sing "O Lord, Thou Art My God and King!" page 49 of the United Church of God hymnal.

- Do: Before singing this song, point out the words in the song to the students: God is very compassionate and very slow to become angry.

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:26-27 : "'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

family activity

THE POINT:

We need to know when anger is righteous and when it is not righteous. Christ had righteous anger when He cleansed the temple of money changers who were defiling His Father's house.

ASK ME...

- Why do most of us become angry with each other?
- Why did Jesus Christ become angry when He walked into the temple?
- When is it good to become angry, and how long should that anger last?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Look for opportunities during the coming week to show your child when it is proper to become angry. You might want to show examples when the family hears a news program or watches a movie together. Or you could illustrate the lesson when your child comes home from school with a story about other children being angry.

Try to emphasize that if we are angry only when an injustice affects us but not when it affects someone else, it is not godly righteous anger. Instead, it is selfish anger. We should be just as angry when someone else is hurt as we are when we are hurt.

Since the children learned about Christ cleansing the temple in His righteous anger, help your child to know when to be angry when society disobeys God. But also show your child how to be wise in the use of his/her anger. We learned in class that to reprove a foolish person is not usually wise (Proverbs 9:7-9).

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:26-27 "Be angry and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."