

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME – JESUS AND THE TEMPLE

LESSON TOPIC

HOME ALONE

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Luke 2:41-52

LESSON PASSAGE

Luke 2:41-52

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Passover and Jesus' Absence – (Luke 2:41-47)
- II. Jesus Among the Teachers – (Luke 2:48-50)
- III. Jesus' Growth and Obedience – (Luke 2:51-52)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? (Luke 2:49, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Some children are wise beyond their years. How do we respond when we encounter such wisdom? At the age of twelve, Jesus already understands more about His relationship to the Temple than His parents can comprehend, and they are astonished by His wisdom.

LESSON AIM

This lesson reveals a deeper meaning to worship than simply attending church. It will show that followers must have a personal encounter with Jesus, where they hear and do the teachings of the Lord.

LIFE AIM

In the Christian journey, believers must always keep a focus on Jesus. The distractions of life and even church rituals can cause one to miss the presence and precepts of the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

UNIFYING TOPIC

Lord of the Sabbath

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 12:1-14
(See also Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-11)

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 12:1-8

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Sabbath Controversy – (Matthew 12:1-2)
- II. Biblical Precedents for Jesus' Defense – (Matthew 12:3-4)
- III. Mercy over Ritual – (Matthew 12:5-8)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. (Matthew 12:6, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People legitimize the authority of institutions. When is it appropriate to question this authority? During the discourse of plucking grain on the Sabbath, Jesus declares that His authority supersedes that of the Temple's.

LESSON AIM

Disciples of Christ should value the ways of the Lord more than traditions. The ways of the Lord can be summarized in the two greatest commandments: to love God and love one's neighbor (Mark 12:30-31). Jesus responded to the criticism of the Pharisees regarding His disciples picking grain to eat on the Sabbath. His response teaches that we must not allow traditions to separate people from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

LIFE AIM

As one grows in Christ, they understand what is most important in life. Jesus reveals that the highest achievement in life is to follow Him as Lord and Savior. In this lesson, the disciples of Christ submitted to the Lordship of Christ, which met their physical and spiritual needs. The Pharisees were submitting to the law and not the Lord. They remained spiritually malnourished. The life aim is to follow Jesus in all matters.

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LESSON TOPIC

BAKE SALES GONE BAD!

UNIFYING TOPIC

Cleansing the Temple

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

John 2:13-25

LESSON PASSAGE

John 2:13-25

LESSON TEXT

- I. Jesus Cleanses the Temple – (John 2:13-17)
- II. Sign of the Temple's Destruction and Resurrection – (John 2:18-22)
- III. Jesus Knows All People – (John 2:23-25)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. (John 2:16, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People sometimes lack awareness of building protocols and may enter a space with little regard for the business that transpires there. What does it mean to honor a building and the purpose for which it was constructed? Jesus shows proper reverence for the Temple when He zealously clears out the merchants.

LESSON AIM

This lesson conveys the holiness of everything associated with God. The term *sanctification* is used to show that God is separated from sin. God is holy and requires His people and everything related to Him to also be set apart. Jesus' response to the merchandisers in the Temple illustrates that God has no tolerance for desecrating what He declares holy.

LIFE AIM

People sometimes tend to abuse the privilege of God. This passage reveals that entering God's house is a privilege. It must be done in a manner of reverence. The merchants in this lesson abused the privilege and took advantage of a captive audience. They sold doves to pilgrims at an excessive price. This word reminds believers to treat everyone fairly. It is one of the many ways of properly worshiping God.

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LESSON TOPIC

THE HARDER THEY FALL

UNIFYING TOPIC

Jesus Predicts the Temple's Destruction

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 23:37—24:35

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 24:1-14

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Fall of Earthly Structures – (Matthew 24:1-2)
- II. The Rise of Deception and Tribulation – (Matthew 24:3-8)
- III. The Perseverance of the Faithful – (Matthew 24:9-14)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Jesus asked [the disciples], Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” (Matthew 24:2, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Grand structures appear to be indestructible. What might cause even the sturdiest buildings to deteriorate? Jesus warns that the magnificent Temple will be destroyed as a sign of His coming and the end of the age.

LESSON AIM

Individuals tend to ignore the reality that life will eventually cease. Jesus makes that point clear by giving signs of the consummation of the earth. Therefore, everyone must submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior. Believers must depend upon Christ to prepare for the world's last days.

LIFE AIM

This lesson urges the faithful to live with the mindset that Jesus is the beginning and the end of the world. It shows Him as the final authority on how this age will end. God is in control, and faith in the Lord is the key to thriving in the end times.

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