

Lesson #4-19***The Messiah's Encounter at the Temple***

John 2:13-25

**Key Verse:**

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
John 2:19

The Point:

Jesus' life, death and resurrection bring life in a way that human actions cannot.

Unit Theme (January 7 - January 21):

Encountering the Messiah

Build It Up, Tear It Down

Stack cups to illustrate Jesus' claim about his death and resurrection.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Plastic cups
- † Stopwatch or other time-keeping device

Instructions:

1. Read today's lesson from John 2:13-25.
2. **Let's listen closely to the end again and what Jesus says.**
3. Read John 2:18-22 again.
4. **The leaders asked Jesus to show them**
5. **a sign that he had the authority to drive the moneychangers out of the temple. What did he say? ["Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.]"**
6. **Let's do a quick challenge about building and rebuilding.**
7. Pass out a stack of 21 cups to each table.

Build It Up, Tear It Down (Cont.)

8. You will need someone to serve as the timer at each table using either a watch or phone. Taking turns, start the timer with the cups in one stack. Build a tower with six cups on the bottom, then five, then four, going all the way to one at the top. Then put the cups all back into a stack. Allow each person to have a turn, and see how fast it can be done.
9. After all tables have finished, you may choose to ask who had the fastest time.
10. **It would have been crazy to think of building a whole temple in three days, but Jesus was not talking about the actual temple, he was talking about himself.**
11. **What would make Jesus compare himself to the temple?** *[God now dwells in Jesus, just as God dwelt in the temple.]*
12. **What is Jesus promising?** *[That even if they kill him, God would raise him up in three days.]*
13. **Do you think the religious leaders or the disciples understood what Jesus was saying? Why or why not?**
14. **Work together to turn your cups into a cross in the center of your table as a reminder that Jesus has promised that even if he is torn down, he will rise again in three days.**
15. **Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are a lot bigger than the temple. Jesus brings life and shows God's power in a way that human actions could not.**
16. **In Jesus, people will experience God in an even closer way than worshipping at the temple and giving sacrifices to God. In Jesus, God is doing something new!**



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