



Bible Point ▶

We can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.

Bible Verse

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- work together to build a church,
 - hear how the Temple was rebuilt,
 - take care of their church classroom, and
 - ask God to help them care for their church.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- King Josiah leads God's people to repair the Temple.

**2 Kings
22:1-23:3**



When Josiah became king of Judah, he had a terrible heritage to overcome. His grandfather, Manasseh, and his father, Amon, both “did what was evil in the Lord's sight” (2 Kings 21:20) by leading the people of Israel into idolatry and away from the true God. The Temple had been neglected for many years. Instead of following the ways of his father and grandfather, Josiah followed the ways of his ancestor David.

Josiah's efforts included the restoration of the Temple. During the restoration, the Book of the Law was found. The Book of the Law may have been the first five books of the Old Testament or just the book of Deuteronomy. King Josiah had the book read to him, knowing it would point out things his people had done against God's will.

King Josiah responded by showing repentance and a commitment to set things right in the house of God, the Temple, and in the nation of Israel. King Josiah's reign stands out as a bright spot amidst a long line of evil kings who eventually brought the downfall of Judah.

Prayer

- Read 2 Kings 21:1-17.
- How did Josiah's respect for God's house make a difference in Judah?
- What does it mean to respect God's house today?
- Pray: Lord, please help me lead my preschoolers toward a proper respect for your house as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Church Builders —Pretend to buy and sell lumber to build a church, and hear how God’s people rebuilt their church.	Wooden blocks, paper strips	
	Option 2: Lumberyard —Create modeling-dough “stones” and “timbers,” and hear about materials used to repair the Temple.	Modeling dough, craft sticks	
	Option 3: Carpentry Corner —Use toy tools to “repair” items in the classroom, and hear how carpenters worked to rebuild the Temple.	Plastic toy tools	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Work together to construct a church.	Graham crackers, bowl of cereal squares, frosting, plastic knives, paper plate or plastic tray	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear a story from 2 Kings about the rebuilding of the Temple.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Clean up their church classroom.	CD player	
Closing 	Where’s My Bible? —Hear how Whiskers discovered his Bible when he cleaned his room.		
	Church-Care Action Prayer —Ask God to help them care for their classroom.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: butterfly name tags made in Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "What did you tell your family about Naaman's visit to Elisha?" or "What kind actions did you do this week?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What do you like about coming to church?" or "Have you ever built something? Tell me about it."

■ Option 1: Church Builders

SUPPLIES: wooden blocks, paper strips

Form two groups. Call one group the Lumber Sellers and one group the Church Builders. Have the Lumber Sellers collect all the blocks in the room and set up a lumberyard. Encourage them to stack the blocks in piles according to size and shape.

Give the Church Builders paper strips to use as money. Explain that each strip of paper buys one block. Have children who are Church Builders "buy" blocks from children who are Lumber Sellers and then use the blocks to build a church. Encourage the Lumber Sellers to help build the church after they've sold all the blocks. As children work, explain that today's Bible story is about a time when God's people rebuilt their church.

■ Option 2: Lumberyard

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, craft sticks

Set out modeling dough and craft sticks. Show children how to roll pieces of dough into "stones" and cut strips of dough into "logs." Encourage each child to make several stones and logs, and then invite children to put their stones and timbers together to



build a modeling-dough church. As children work, explain that today's Bible story is about a time God's people cut timber and stone to repair the Temple. Point out that ► *we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.*

■ Option 3: Carpentry Corner

SUPPLIES: *plastic toy tools*

Set out toy tools such as plastic hammers, screwdrivers, and wrenches. Tell children that they can pretend to make some repairs to your classroom. Have them use the toy tools to pretend to repair "broken" windowsills, doorknobs, shelves, and tables. You may need to specify a few "broken" items to get them started. As children work on their repairs, explain that today's Bible story is about a time when carpenters, builders, and bricklayers worked to repair the Temple.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, have the children stop what they're doing and join you in your story area.

NOTE: Do not have them clean up their activities. You won't have them do the normal "Pick-Up Time" activities. They'll clean up during "Do the Bible Story."



If you don't have toy tools, children can use block "hammers" and *rhythm stick* "screwdrivers."

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: *graham crackers, frosting, bowl of cereal squares, plastic knives, paper plate or plastic tray*



Before class, build the foundation of a church building by putting frosting on the corners of two graham cracker squares and sandwiching cereal squares between them. Put additional cereal squares in a bowl.

Tell the children you'll tap the *rhythm sticks* three times to get their attention. Explain that when you tap, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Sold lumber; made a church; fixed the doors to our room.)

Say: **Some of you were lumber sellers and church builders. If you sold lumber or built a church out of blocks, pretend to hammer and say, "Bang, bang, bang."** Pause. **Some of you cut modeling-dough stones and timbers. If you did that activity, pretend to saw and say, "Zip, zip, zip."** Pause. **The rest of you used tools to "repair" our classroom. If you used the toy tools, pretend to use a screwdriver and say, "Squeak, squeak, squeak."** Pause.

You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're going to hear how God's people repaired the Temple. The Temple was God's house, and God's people wanted to take good care of it. ► *We can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.* Today when we talk about God's house, we're talking about our church building. Let's get ready for our Bible story by making a model of our church building.



Set out the graham crackers, cereal squares, plastic knives, and frosting. Say: **I've brought some cracker logs and cereal stones with me.** Hold up the foundation you built before class, and continue: **We're going to use these to make a model of our church. I'll give each of you a cracker and some cereal squares to add to our church. When you add your cracker and cereal squares, you can say one thing you like about coming to church. For example, you might like seeing your friends, playing with blocks, or hearing Bible stories.**

Hand out one graham cracker square and four cereal squares to each child. Demonstrate how to add frosting to the corners and sandwich cereal squares between the crackers to create a layer. Dab a bit of frosting between the layers as you let each child add his or her layer on the foundation.

Say: **I'm glad everyone in our class likes coming to church! Our church building is getting bigger. Now I'm going to give everyone another graham cracker to eat. As you eat your snack, I'd like you to tell us one thing you've learned at church. Maybe you learned that God loves you or that Jesus died and came back to life. Let's go around the room and let everyone say one thing you've learned.**

Hand out graham crackers, and take time to listen to children's answers.

Say: **You've certainly learned a lot in this class! I'm glad you keep coming to church to learn more about God. Now let's think of ways we can help take care of our church. Maybe you can pick up toys in our classroom or pick up paper on the ground outside. Tell us one way you can help take care of our church.**

Have the children gather around the finished church.

Say: **Those are all good ways to take care of our church. We're glad to take care of our church building so we can have a nice place where we can come to learn about God. The church in our Bible story hadn't been taken care of for a long time. It was all broken down and falling apart. Let's bring out our Bible and find out how the people fixed it up and took care of it.**

Leave out the bowl of cereal squares and other supplies so children can help you put them away during "Do the Bible Story."



Prop up two graham crackers to form a roof at the top of the cracker structure.

Leave the graham cracker-and-cereal church on display, or let children take it apart and eat it after class.

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.**



Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you're done using them so they can be used in future lessons!

**Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *Bible stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hand stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ **Hear and Tell the Bible Story**

SUPPLIES: *Bible*



Before class, take out the "Temple Reconstruction" poster from the *Poster Pack*.

Bring out the "Temple Reconstruction" poster, and have the children gather around you. Open your Bible to **2 Kings**

22, and show it to the children.

Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. This poster shows us a picture of our Bible story.**

Our Bible story today is about an 8-year-old boy named Josiah who became a king!

Ask: • **What would you do if you were a king or a queen?** (Eat ice cream for breakfast; live in a palace; I'd be the boss of everyone.)

Say: **The kings who ruled the country before Josiah were mean and nasty. They didn't care about God. When Josiah became king, he remembered God. And he noticed something—God's Temple was all broken down. It needed to be fixed up before it could be a nice place where people could worship God.**

King Josiah wanted to rebuild the Temple, but he needed money to buy building supplies like lumber and stone.

Ask: • **Where do you think King Josiah could get the money?** (From the bank; from the palace; he could ask people to help.)

Say: **Sometimes people brought offering money to the Temple just as you bring offering money to our church today.**

Ask: • **What do we use our offering money for?** (To help missionaries; for the church.)

Say: **Some of our offering money goes to support our church workers and missionaries, and some of it goes to help keep our church building looking nice. King Josiah decided to use some of the offering money to pay for the materials to rebuild the Temple.**

Let's take a look at what the Temple looked like. Hold up the poster "Temple Reconstruction."

Ask: • **What's wrong with the Temple?** (Boards are everywhere; it needs repairs; people are fixing it.)

• **What kind of building supplies do you think King Josiah needed to repair the Temple?** (Hammers and nails; boards; bricks; ladders.)

Say: **As I talk about the different actions, let's pretend we're doing the work. Are you ready? Carpenters and bricklayers worked long and hard to repair the Temple. They needed to cut stones and timbers. Let's cut some stones and timbers.** Pause. **Others cleaned and polished the inside of the Temple. Let's pretend to clean.** Pause. **While they were working, they found a dusty old scroll. When they opened it up, they discovered that it was the Book of the Law, which is like our Bible.**

King Josiah was excited that they'd found God's Word! He asked his royal secretary to read from the scroll. The scroll told about the things God wanted his people to do. Let's pretend to read the scroll.

Ask: • **What are some things God wants us to do?** (Be nice; share; obey my parents.)

Say: **When King Josiah heard what was written on the scroll, he was sad because he knew the people hadn't been doing what God wanted them to do. So he invited all the people to come to the Temple. Everyone in the whole kingdom came—babies, children, parents, and grandparents. King Josiah read God's Word from the scroll, and everyone agreed that they should start obeying God again. All of this happened because King Josiah wanted to take care of the Temple.**

Ask: • **Who takes care of our church?** (The janitor; moms and dads; the pastor.)

• **What can you do to help take care of our church?** (I can wipe my feet before I come inside; I can clean up my messes.)

BIBLE VERSE ►

Say: **When King Josiah took care of the Temple, the people began to obey God again. God is pleased when we take care of the church.** Open your Bible to **Mark 16:15**, and say: **The Bible says we should ►tell everyone the good news about Jesus! One way to do that is by taking care of God’s house.**



Say: **Just like each of you, Jesus has a special place that he calls his house. In Bible times, it was called a Temple. Today we call it a church. Jesus wants to meet with each one of us when we come to church. He will be with us wherever we go, but he will be with us in a special way at church.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Now we know how important it is to take care of God’s house. But look at our room! It’s a mess. We’ve left building blocks, carpenter tools, modeling dough, and toys everywhere. Let’s help take care of God’s house by cleaning up our church classroom right now.**

Lead the children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to clean up the activities they worked on earlier. Have children sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

As children clean up their activity areas, take a moment to put the graham crackers, frosting, and cereal squares away. If some children finish early, invite them to help you or to help other children. After everyone has finished cleaning up, have the children sit down.

Say: **Whew! Taking care of God’s house is a lot of work. Every week people make sure that the church is clean, that the yard is taken care of, and that anything that’s broken gets fixed. We’re helping to take care of God’s house by making our room a nice clean place where we can come to learn about God. All of the people who take care of God’s house are helping people learn about God. ►We can help others learn about God by taking care of God’s house. Let’s call our friend Whiskers—we can show him how we’ve cleaned our classroom.**

Lead children in calling for Whiskers, and then continue with the lesson.



BIBLE POINT ►

Closing

■ Where's My Bible?

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: Hi, everyone! What's going on? (*Looks around.*)

Teacher: We've been cleaning our classroom. Today we're learning that ▶ we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.

Whiskers: Wow! This place looks great! I've been cleaning my room, too. (*Sheepishly*) I didn't really want to, but my mom said I had to. She said it looked like a pig lived there instead of a mouse.

Teacher: Your room must have been really messy. Did you get it all cleaned up?

Whiskers: I'm almost done. But you'll never guess what I found when I was cleaning up.

Teacher: What did you find, Whiskers?

Whiskers: I want you to guess!

(*Let children try to guess what Whiskers found in his room.*)

Whiskers: I found my picture Bible! It was in a pile under a whole bunch of toys and stuff.

Teacher: That sounds like our Bible story. Children, let's tell Whiskers how the people found God's Word in our Bible story.

(*Lead children in telling Whiskers about Josiah finding the Book of the Law when the Temple was restored.*)

Whiskers: Hey! That's just what happened to me. What did they do with the scroll after they found it?

Teacher: King Josiah read the scroll to all the people. Everyone listened carefully and promised to obey God.

Whiskers: Wow! I've been looking at my Bible, too—that's why I'm not quite done cleaning yet. I better go finish up. Maybe I'll find some more great stuff. I've already found four marbles, three comic books, my Candy Land game, and a basket of Easter candy that I lost last month. I'll see you next week!

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■ Church-Care Action Prayer



BIBLE POINT

SUPPLIES: none

Say: ► **We can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.** Our classroom is just one part of God's house. If we keep it neat and tidy, our friends will want to come and visit and learn about God. Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us take good care of our part of God's house. I'll say some words and do some actions. You can repeat the words and actions after me.

Lead children in the following action prayer. As you say each line, demonstrate the actions that are in parentheses. Then have children say the words and do the actions with you.

God, please hear our simple prayer. (*Fold hands in prayer.*)

We want to show you that we care. (*Hug self.*)

Please show us things that we can do (*look around with hand on brow*)

To keep a nice clean house for you. (*Pretend to sweep.*)

We'll pick up toys, and wipe our feet. (*Pretend to pick up toys, and then wipe feet.*)

We want to keep our classroom neat! (*Place hands on hips and nod head.*)

Then when we bring our friends along (*motion "come along"*),

They'll learn about you all day long. (*Open hands to indicate Bible.*)

In Jesus' name, amen. (*Make praying hands.*)



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Lively Learning: Church Walk*

Take children on a walk outside your church building. Together pick up trash or fallen leaves and put them in paper bags. (Avoid using plastic bags that can be choking hazards.) If the weather doesn't cooperate, have the children pick up leftover bulletins in the sanctuary or in your church's hallways.

■ *Make to Take: My Own Church*

Set out the leftover graham crackers, cereal squares, plastic knives, and frosting, and let children design their own churches. Show them how to layer the items as you did during "Setting the Stage." As children build their graham cracker-and-cereal churches, review how the people rebuilt the Temple. Encourage children to think of ways they can help take care of your church or classroom. Remind them that ► *we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.*



■ *Treat to Eat: Stained-Glass Windows*



Before class, make finger gelatin in at least two different colors. To make each gelatin color, mix two 3-ounce packages of flavored gelatin with $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups boiling water. Stir until dissolved, and pour into an 8x8-inch pan. Chill the gelatin for at least three hours, and then dip the pans in warm water for 15 seconds before removing the gelatin. Cut gelatin into small pieces.



Give each child a small paper plate or napkin and several pieces of colored gelatin. Let children arrange gelatin pieces to look like stained-glass windows. As they enjoy the snack, explain that churches have stained glass to make them look pretty and special. God's house is a special place. Remind children that ► *we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.*

■ *Story Picture: The Temple Is Repaired*

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Have children glue craft sticks to the Temple. Then set out crayons or washable markers, and let children color their pictures. As they work, talk about how Josiah restored the Temple. Remind children that ► *we can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.*

Today I learned...

We can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.

Help me learn this:

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Ask me:

- What did Josiah find when he took care of God's house?
- Why is it important to take care of God's house?
- How can our family help take care of our church?

Family Fun

- This week volunteer your family to do a project at your church. You might straighten hymnals, gather bulletins left in the pews after a worship service, or clean and donate old toys to the nursery.
- Josiah designated funds to use in the Temple restoration. This week have family members collect their change to give as a special offering to God's church.

Lesson 12
Today your child learned that **WE CAN HELP OTHERS LEARN ABOUT GOD BY TAKING CARE OF GOD'S HOUSE.** Children heard how King Josiah restored the Temple in Jerusalem. They cleaned and straightened their own church classroom.

The Temple Is Repaired

(2 Kings 22:1-23:3)

