

## Aim of lesson

To encourage the class to invite Christ into all parts of their lives.

## Bible background

John 2; Ephesians 5:1-21

## Outline of lesson

This is primarily intended to be a discussion lesson. The workbook pages are designed to encourage the class to think about three practical areas of their lives and to consciously invite Jesus into their thinking and actions, noting what may need to be thrown out in the process.

Get the class to look at the questions in the workbook. Explain that before considering these questions you are going to read John 2 where Jesus is first invited to a celebration and then throws people out of the place where they work.

### Invited to a marriage

Read John 2:1-11 together. Lead the class to see that Jesus was happy to accept an invitation to a celebration. This would have included eating, drinking, laughter, music and dancing as Jewish weddings did. Any of these in excess would be wrong. They then could begin to take over your life. Get each of the class to look up one of these verses: Ephesians 5:4,5,10,15,18,21 and ask them what they learn.

Get the class to look back at the subjects in the balloons. Can they apply what they read to everything there. Drugs and smoking should be seen as wrong as they destroy one's own body (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Christ wants to transform our minds himself not by using drugs. Make-up should be seen in the context of 1 Peter 3:3-4. The simple test 'Would Jesus do this?', is a wonderful guide.

This is a good point on which to turn to marriage.

Ask the class to read the questions in the ring and use felt pens to mark what they think are Christ's priorities. Note that in John 2 Jesus gives his approval to marriage by attending the wedding celebrations. An older class with plenty of time may like to read and discuss Ephesians 5:21-33.

### Thrown out of God's house

Read together John 2:13-25. Ask the class why they think Jesus stopped these men from doing their work. What was wrong with it? (See Matthew 21:13). They were making a profit by rejecting the animals brought for sacrifice so that they could sell their own to the people at a higher price. They exchanged the common currency for that accepted in the temple at a rate of exchange which left them with a huge profit.

Get the class to look at the questions about work in the cog wheels. It may be useful to point out that Jesus himself was unemployed yet he worked full-time for his Father (John 5:17).

## Digging deeper

### Two passovers

This section investigates God's bountiful provision through Jesus by looking at what happened at two passovers. The other recorded passover, of course, was marked by the last supper and Jesus' death.

## Relevance to our lives

The last question in the workbook could be used for the class to think and pray about during the week. Ask the class about their conclusions next week.

## Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you care about everything that happens to us and everything we do. Please help us to let your thinking affect every bit of our lives.

## Other suggestions for activities

A chart could be begun listing the miracles (signs) that John records in his gospel. Use it to consider in what way each shows the glory of Jesus (John 2:11).