

# LESSON TEN

MARK 11:1-12:17

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

*Going to church*  
2–3 mins.

### DRILL TIME

*The Tabernacle*  
3–5 mins.

### W.O.W!

*Prayer*  
3–5 mins.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2–3 mins.

### BIBLE

#### INVESTIGATION

*Mark 11:1-12:17*  
20–30 mins.

#### LESSON-AT-HOME

*Colossians 4:2*  
3–5 mins.

## OVERVIEW

Mark 11 begins the final week of Jesus' life. He enters Jerusalem on a colt with palm branches waving and shouts of "Hosanna." The next day, Jesus curses a fig tree for being fruitless and then clears out the temple of fruitless moneychangers and sellers. He proclaims that the temple was intended to be a house of prayer for the nations, not a den of thieves. The chief priests and teachers of the law continue to plot Jesus' murder.

The next morning, Jesus uses the cursed fig tree as an object lesson. It is a picture of fruitless Israel that has abandoned God. All those who would turn back to God in faith-filled prayer would receive the blessings of God. Prayer and right relationships will characterize those who follow Christ.

The chief priests and teachers of the law again challenge Jesus' authority to do all that He has done. Jesus traps them instead, causing them to go away quietly. He then tells the Parable of the Tenants, demonstrating that the Jews will end up killing the Son of God. Finally, another test by the Pharisees was foiled as Jesus instructed them to give their money to Caesar—but their lives to God!

## PREPARATION

Read through Mark 11-12 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Our Bible Investigation time ends with one of Jesus' great gospel truths: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." The children you are teaching are made in the image of God. That means they belong to God, just as the money in the days of the Roman Empire ultimately belonged to Caesar. So if you recognize that your children belong to God, it should greatly impact how you teach them. They should receive all of your energy, passion, and heart as you share the Scriptures with them. They should be the recipient of your heartfelt prayers. Treating them as people made in the image of God requires you to share the love of God with them. Thank God for your children!



## WELCOME

### **Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *Why do we go to church on Sundays?* **Allow answers.** *We go to church to worship God. What are some of the things we do at church?*

**Allow answers.** *We study God's Word, sing praises to God, pray, fellowship with other believers, etc.*

*From the very beginning, God has called people to worship Him. And, He has made ways for God's people to come together as a group and worship God at the same place. We gather today on the Lord's Day in a church building as the people of God. Isn't it great to come together as the Church of Jesus Christ?*



## DRILL TIME

*Next, let's have our DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

**Today's questions:** *What was the name of the big tent God told Moses to build as a place of worship? How did Moses get all of the materials to construct the tabernacle? Did Moses construct the tabernacle just as God told him to? What filled the tabernacle when it was completed? Who was the first priest to serve as high priest in the tabernacle?*

### **Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

#### **Answers:**

1. The tabernacle.
2. The Israelites freely gave the materials.
3. Yes.
4. The glory cloud of the LORD.
5. Aaron.

**Say:** *We studied about the tabernacle in the Book of Exodus. When the children of Israel finally settled in the Promised Land, the LORD had them build a temple for worship. Today, we worship God in church buildings. God is always to be worshipped!*



W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **PRAYER**. Write the word on the board. This is a word we all know, isn't it? Let's talk about what PRAYER is.

PRAYER is talking to God. Isn't it amazing that God has given us a way to talk with Him? And, isn't it more incredible that He actually listens to the PRAYERS of His people? Because our God is a personal God, we can personally PRAY to Him.

PRAYER involves several different parts. We are to confess our sins in PRAYER. Our PRAYERS must include words of praise and love to God. We must give thanks in our PRAYERS. God also tells us to present our requests in PRAYER to Him.

While anyone can offer PRAYERS to God, only Christians have true fellowship with God in Jesus Christ. Our PRAYERS must be made in faith, trusting that God will answer because of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

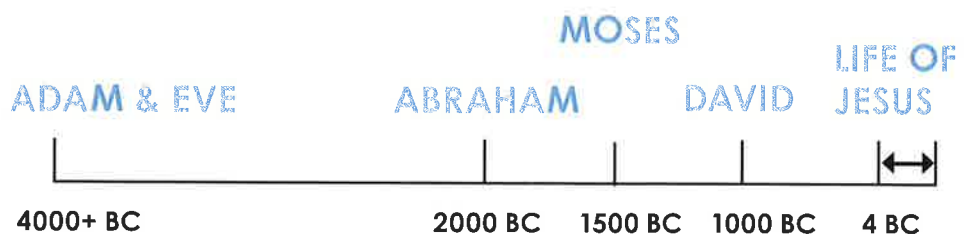
PRAYERS are not just wishes or hopes. They are acts of faith in God. Watch for our Word of the Week as we study today!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board, and show the students when these events took place.

### This Week's Timeline





**Use flannelgraph figures to illustrate today's stories.**

**Introduction:** *Jesus and His disciples are on their way to Jerusalem. What has Jesus repeatedly said will happen soon? [He will be arrested, beaten, and killed.] Jesus has to conquer death in order to give His people ETERNAL LIFE. So, what will happen when Jesus gets to Jerusalem? We're about to find out.*

*Let's begin reading. Read Mark 11:1-3.*

<sup>1</sup> Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'"

**Discussion:** *What does the Lord need? [A colt to ride on.] What does Jesus need the colt for?*

*Let's see. Read verses 4-10.*

<sup>4</sup> And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup> And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

**Discussion:** *Who knows what the word HOSANNA means? Allow answers. HOSANNA means "Save us now!" The people were praising Jesus and looking at Him as their Savior. Isn't that incredible? They know that Jesus is the Son of David, and believe He has come to set up His kingdom. This event is often referred to as the "Triumphal Entry" or "Palm Sunday," since they waved palm branches to honor Jesus, the King.*

**Application:** *Do you cry HOSANNA to Jesus? Do you look to Jesus to save you from your sins?*





*Let's read more. Read verses 11-14.*

<sup>11</sup> And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. <sup>12</sup> On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup> And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

**Discussion:** *Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? [Because it has leaves, but no fruit.] From a distance, the fig tree looked like it should have fruit, but it had none. Later on, we will find out that Jesus had a special purpose for cursing the fig tree.*

*Let's continue. Read verses 15-18.*

<sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching.

**Discussion:** *What did Jesus do in the temple? [He drove out all those who were buying and selling there.] The money-changers and sellers had turned the temple into a circus, taking advantage of the poor and degrading the worship of God. What did Jesus say the temple was to be used for? [It was to be a house of prayer.] Instead of being devoted to PRAYER, the people were more interested in making money.*

**Application:** *Our churches today should be houses of PRAYER, not places to take advantage of people or make money!*

*Listen to what happens next. Read verses 19-25.*

<sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city. <sup>20</sup> As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its



roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

**Discussion:** *Jesus used the cursed fig tree as an object lesson on prayer. The fruitless fig tree was a picture of fruitless Israel who had abandoned PRAYER and obedience to God. So Jesus teaches that God answers only those PRAYERS that are PRAYED in faith. And, we must have right relationships with others before we PRAY so God will hear our PRAYERS.*

**Application:** *PRAYER is a great gift from God. Unfortunately, we often try to do things our own way instead of submitting our PRAYERS to the LORD. PRAYERS of faith show our utter dependence on the LORD instead of ourselves!*

*Let’s move on. Read verses 27-33.*

<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, <sup>28</sup> and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” <sup>31</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, ‘From man?’—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. <sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

**Discussion:** *Here are the chief priests and other religious leaders trying to trap and test Jesus again. Did they really want to know how Jesus had His authority to do powerful miracles? [No.] They had*



*absolutely no faith that Jesus was the Son of God. So, Jesus ends up trapping them with His own question. Isn't that great? They knew they couldn't say anything bad about John the Baptist, but they also didn't want to say He was a prophet of God. Jesus had trapped them, showing them that He was in authority!*

*Now, listen to this parable. **Read Mark 12:1-11.***

<sup>1</sup> And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. <sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup> And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. <sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>8</sup> And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup> What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Have you not read this Scripture: " 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; <sup>11</sup> this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**Discussion:** *What a sad story! Do you understand what Jesus is talking about? The owner of the vineyard is God. His servants are the prophets, who were beaten and even killed. Then, God sends Jesus to the world. What did they do to this son (Jesus)? [They killed Him.] Jesus is telling these religious leaders that they will end up killing Him because they did not honor Him as the Son of God. Do you think these men understood what Jesus was saying?*

*Listen. **Read verse 12.***

<sup>12</sup> And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

**Discussion:** *They knew that Jesus was talking about them! This made them even more angry, that's for sure. Jesus was telling them*



*the true history of God's people and how He would be rejected and killed very soon.*

*Listen to this next encounter. **Read verses 13-14.***

<sup>13</sup> And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. <sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"

**Discussion:** *Here we go again! They wanted to test and trap Jesus with His own answers. More than that, they wanted Jesus to speak against Caesar, the current ruler of the world.*

*Listen to how Jesus answers them. **Read verses 15-17.***

<sup>15</sup> But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." <sup>16</sup> And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

**Discussion:** *What an amazing answer! Do you understand what Jesus said? Caesar's image was on all of their money, so Jesus said that all the money belonged to Caesar. So it was right to pay taxes to Caesar. What belongs to God then? Everything that has God's image on it. What's that? [All of us!] All people are made in the image of God, so we all must submit our lives to God. Jesus gives the perfect answer to this tricky question.*

**Conclusion:** *When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you become a part of God's family, just as you were created to be. This gives you ETERNAL LIFE, and it also gives you the privilege to offer PRAYERS to God, your Father. What great blessing! Think about that, and we'll continue with Jesus in Jerusalem next time.*





## LESSON-AT-HOME

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Colossian 4:2) together.**

**Colossians 4:2 (ESV)**

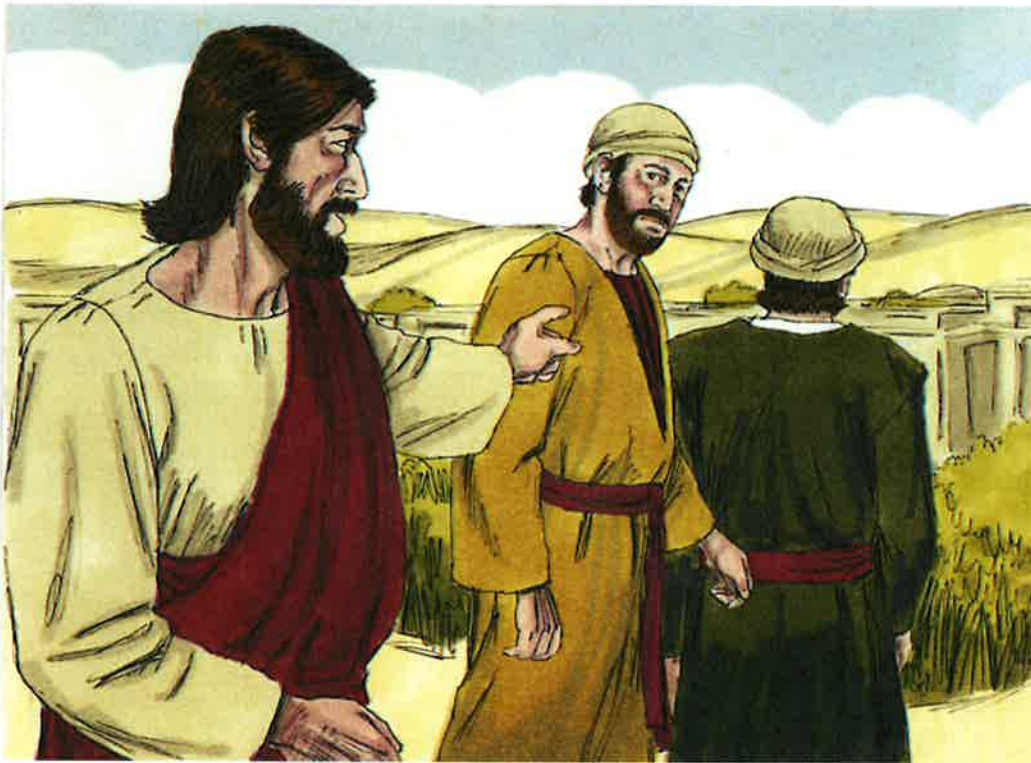
<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

**Say:** *This is the privilege we have as Christians—we can be devoted to lives of PRAYER. This means making PRAYER a priority in our lives. These PRAYERS must be both watchful and thankful. We are to watch over other people’s lives (and our own), and we are to always be thankful for all that God has done. Devote yourselves to PRAYER!*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**



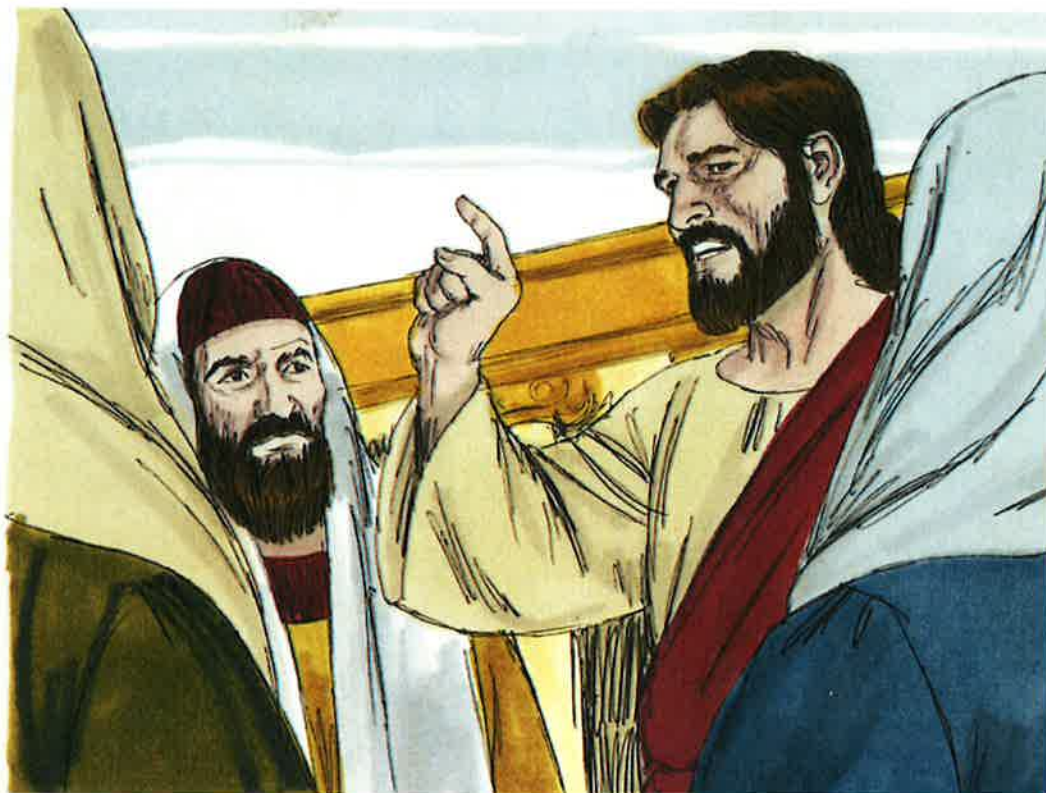


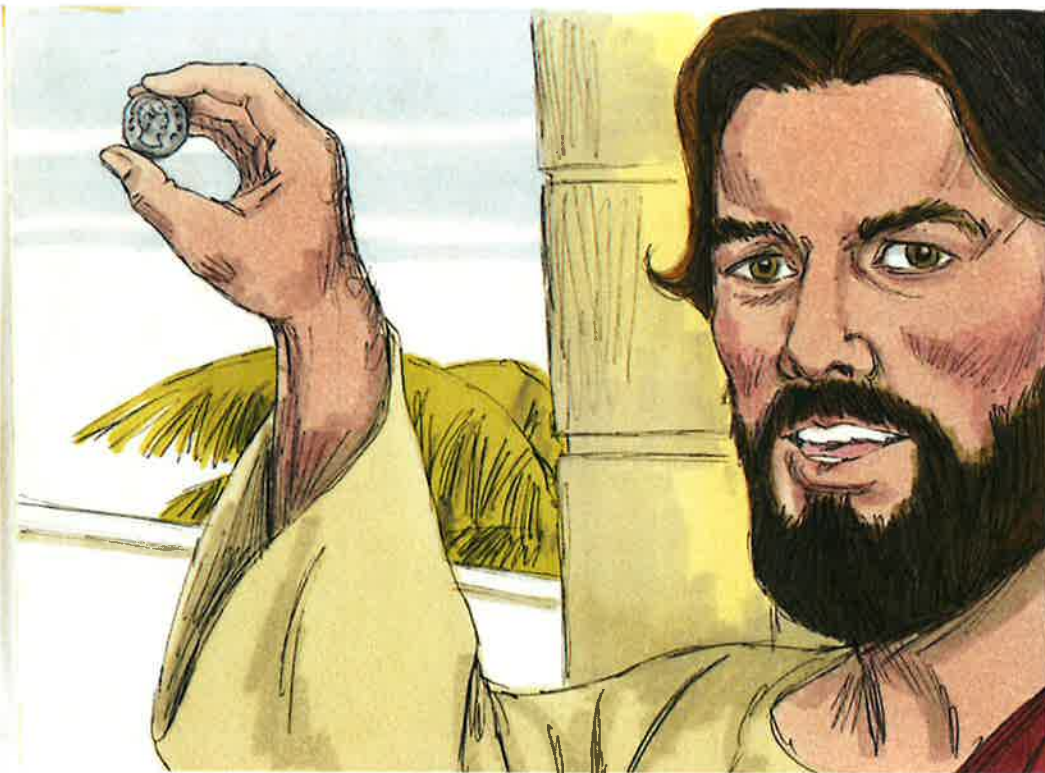












# Lesson-At-Home

## Bookmark

### Scripture Memory

#### Colossians 4:2

*Continue steadfastly  
in prayer, being  
watchful in it with  
thanksgiving.*

### Lesson Review

#### Mark 11:1-12:17

*Jesus enters Jerusalem on  
a colt.  
Jesus cleanses the temple.  
Turn back to God in  
PRAYER.  
More testing by the  
Pharisees.*

# Year TWO

Investigating God's Word.  
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Ten

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