

FUN FISH – In Every SHAPE

Session 11: OCTAGON – Think of Others – Cleaning the Temple

Memory Line: “Thank you for making me” (Psalm 139:14 NLT).

Welcome:

Theme Song: to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.

Shape and Topic:

A stop sign is an OCTAGON shape. It has eight sides. It is big and red. And whenever you see it, it tells you to stop in a busy place. You look around and make sure you don't bump into anyone else. It is always important to stop and look around, to think of others. This is called respect.

Bible Story: This is My Father's House (John 2:13-17)

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Sellers

Animals

Materials needed: (if you don't have the materials below, feel free to replace them)

Tables

A short rope for a whip

Money in a box

Reflective Time (interactive):

Sometimes it is hard to stop and think of others. We want to run out and be first. We want something that belongs to someone else. Whenever you see an OCTAGON remember to think of others. They have feelings too.

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help me to think of others and remember that they are important too. Amen.”

Sing a song:

“In Every SHAPE” card for this session:



Story 11: This is My Father's House (John 2:13-17)

Jesus and his helpers went into the temple. They wanted to pray, but it was too noisy in there. Sheep baaed. Cows mooed. People shouted. Coins clinked. They couldn't find a quiet corner anywhere.

Jesus looked around. He felt sad. This was God's house, his Father's house, and no one was thinking about Him.

Jesus came up with a plan. He found some rope. He tied it together. Then he stood up. He called out, "STOP! This isn't good. You shouldn't treat God's house like a marketplace!" He waved his rope in the air.

"Go away," said the animal keepers. "We like it here."

"Go away," said the money keepers. "We like it here."

"This isn't right," said Jesus. "This is a place to pray."

The people laughed, so Jesus waved his rope again. He opened the pens and let out the sheep. He let out the cows. He shoed them out of God's house. Then he turned over the tables covered with boxes of coins.

"Stop!" shouted the animal keepers.

"Stop!" shouted the money keepers.

But Jesus kept right on going. "I'm cleaning out my Father's house," he said. "It is you who should stop! You aren't thinking of him!"

Soon the temple was quiet and still. Jesus put down his rope. He told his helpers, "Now we can pray to our Father in heaven. He wants us to think of him."