

Jesus Clears the Temple

June 7th, 2020

Explain to your children that the temple was where people went to worship God when Jesus was alive, just like the church building today is where we go to worship God with our church family.

Ask: What do we do at church to worship and learn about God?

Read John 2:13-14

Explain that when Jesus was alive, people would bring animals to give to God, just like we offer up our money for God when the tray gets passed around on Sunday mornings. People would give their animals to God to please and honor Him.

Read John 2:15-17

Explain that these people (the merchants) were not at the temple (church) for the right reasons. They were not there to bring honor to God, but were instead looking to take advantage of people who loved God. The merchants were only looking to make money!

Analogy: Imagine it was almost Mother's Day and you wanted to get your mom a really awesome card because you love her so much. These cards normally cost \$1, but you had been so busy that you hadn't had a chance to buy a card yet, and Mother's Day is tomorrow. Oh, no! You go to Walmart to buy a card, but they are completely sold out! You are super sad, because you love your mom and really want to get her a card. Luckily, there is a man outside of Walmart who is selling cards, and they are exactly what you wanted to get your mom. You excitedly go up to the man to give him \$1 for a card, because that's how much they cost inside the store.

SUNDAY STUDIES
for Kids

He stops you and says, "No! These cards cost \$10," even though they are the exact same cards that cost \$1 inside the store. You are so sad that you can't buy a card for your mom, because you only brought \$1.

Ask: Is it fair that the man was asking \$10 for a card that is normally \$1?

Ask: Did this man actually care about your mom and how much you love her, or was he just being mean and trying to make money off of you?

Explain that the merchants were not really trying to worship God...they only wanted to take advantage of other people and make money. This made Jesus sad and angry, because Jesus wants people to worship God with their whole hearts.

Activity: A Revealed Heart

Materials Needed: paper, colorful pens/markers, a dark colored crayon, a coin

Explain that God knows what's inside our hearts. If we worship God sincerely (how you really feel), God knows that. If you are only pretending to worship God, He knows that, too.

Draw a heart on the paper with the pen/marker, then fill up the heart with good things that make you happy - things you are thankful for. Make it bright and colorful. After you've finished that, explain that God has blessed us with all of these good things that we love. Take a moment to pray and thank God for these blessings, and tell your children that it makes God happy when we thank Him for the blessings He's given us.

Next, take the dark crayon and completely cover the drawings, pressing down hard so that every bit of the drawing is covered in a thick layer of crayon.

Explain that, just like how all the nice and pretty things we drew got covered up by the dark crayon, the good things in our heart that we love and are thankful for get covered up when we think mean thoughts or only focus on the bad things in life.

Explain that God wants for us to be positive and think loving thoughts (Romans 8:5-6).

Next, take the coin and scratch away the crayon to reveal the colorful drawings that are underneath. Explain how, when we ask God for forgiveness and focus on Him, the mean thoughts we have are wiped away and it's easier to see all the good things He has blessed us with.