

Hello everyone. What an amazing story we have this week. Today the sun is shining into my living room. It is warm and bright. Spring is coming and so is spring cleaning. In today's lesson, Jesus did some big time cleaning in the temple but it was not dust and cobwebs, it was cleaning the state of mind that prevailed at that time.

Why were there men selling animals on the steps of the temple? Why was Jesus so angry?

The faithful Jewish people used animal sacrifices to atone their sins. The priests took the animals and sacrificed them to God and sins were forgiven. So the people constantly needed to buy the animals they could afford so God would forgive them for their sins that week. The men selling were taking advantage of this need by upping the prices and basically stealing from God's people. Not only that, but they were doing it on the steps of God's House! Jesus was angry. It is the only time in the bible we see Him angry. He knew that in the coming days, He himself would give up his life to atone for our sins, once and for all, and He would suffer death for free! That is why you often hear Jesus referred to as the sacrificial lamb. God sacrificed His Son so we would know that forgiveness is always available, because of His love for us.

I can't wait for Easter and I hope we can all celebrate together in the church at that time.

Blessings to all of you

Merilee

Cleaning House March 7

Theme; Jesus cleans the temple

Scripture; John 2:13-22

Kid's Talk Object; Broom; paper towels; window cleaner; mop



Mops, brooms, and window cleaner...what do we use these things for? (Pause.) We use them when we clean houses. Do you ever help your parents clean your house? (Pause.)

Let's see how good you are at pretending to clean. When I hold up the broom, stand up and pretend to be sweeping the floor. (Demonstrate the motion.) When I hold up the paper towels and window spray, pretend to spray and scrub a window. (Demonstrate the motion.) When I hold up the mop, pretend to use a mop in circles to clean the floor. (Demonstrate the motion.)

How do you know it's time to clean house? Here are some signs that will let you know.

- It's time to clean house when your feet stick to the floor when you walk through the kitchen.**
- It's time to clean house when your mother can't find you when she comes into your room to wake you up in the morning.**
- It's time to clean house when the kids in the neighborhood use their fingers to write "wash me" in the dirt on your windows.**
- It's time to clean house when there are more dishes in the kitchen sink than there are in the cabinets.**
- It's time to clean house when you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.**

I think you get the idea! Today we're going to learn about a time Jesus did some house cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When He went to the temple, He couldn't believe what

He saw. People were selling cattle, sheep, and doves to be used as sacrifices in the temple. Some men were even charging people to change their money so they could pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a flea market than a place to worship God.

Jesus was so angry that He made a whip from rope, and drove the cattle, sheep, and those who were selling them out of the temple. He also turned over the money changers' tables. To the ones who were selling the doves, He said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!." Jesus did some serious house cleaning that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we can also be reminded that there is some other cleaning that needs to be done. The Bible tells us that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in us (1 Corinthians. 3:16). This season of Lent is a good time for us to think about how our hearts might need cleansing. Think of your body as if it were a house. In the attic, your mind, do you keep clean, helpful, loving thoughts up there? Does your heart feel light and happy or sad and heavy? What can you do to clean your heart? Do your hands do good things or do you need to remind them to be careful? Do your feet take you to good places, like school, home running, playing, to church? They do? I'm so glad to hear that!

God, help us to remember that we are Your temple and that Your Spirit lives in us. Help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["Cleaning House"](#)

Scripture Reading: John 2:13-17

TEMPLE TUBE TALK: Have the children stand in a long line. Give the first child in the line a slip of paper with an item (written or picture of) from today's lesson that needed to be cleaned. (selling doves, sheep, cattle; exchanging money) Using a paper towel tube, the first child will whisper what is written on the slip of

paper through the tube to the next child. Each child will then whisper into the tube to the next player until the last child has heard what was whispered through the temple tube. That child will say the words out loud and see if it is the same word that was written on the slip of paper. Play again with another player beginning the TEMPLE TUBE TALK. Encourage children to use words that they can think of for areas in our own lives that need to be cleaned (such as our speech, our prayer life, our obedience, what our eyes watch, or what our ears listen to, etc.)

TEMPLE BUILDING: Give children blocks or boxes, etc to build a temple. Let the children take turns in telling something that happened in today's Bible story and then telling how they can worship God in HIS HOUSE. Children may enjoy knocking the building down as the story is told and building it up again.

TEMPLE ART: Give each child a piece of heavy paper/poster board and help them to draw or trace a large temple. Let the children use colored markers to decorate the windows of their temple to look like stain glass art. The children might also glue craft sticks on the drawing to create the look of a roof on the temple. When the temple is finished, have the children draw a sign beside their temple with an arrow that says, "Keep God's House Clean".

TREASURE CHEST: Give the children a small box and the supplies to decorate their box to put coins into. Let the children put real or pretend "coins" into their box as they discuss today's Bible lesson. Ask children how our offerings are used for God. (Examples: to buy supplies, to help poor people, to share money with missionaries, to pay the church staff, etc.)

SING A SONG: Be Careful Little Hands, and I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy



JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



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Multiple Choice

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)



Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Answers can be found in John 2:13-16 (NIV)

- ___ 1. The Son of God
A. Jerusalem B. Passover C. Dove D. Jesus
- ___ 2. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
A. temple B. house C. market D. court
- ___ 3. A small, wild pigeon
A. cattle B. sheep C. dove D. chicken
- ___ 4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
A. table B. chair C. whip D. bed
- ___ 5. Coins or bills used to pay for something
A. money B. cattle C. sheep D. dove
- ___ 6. A building dedicated to the worship of God
A. temple B. market C. table D. courts
- ___ 7. An animal raised for its wool
A. dove B. cattle C. whip D. sheep
- ___ 8. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
A. table B. whip C. money D. dove
- ___ 9. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt
A. Christmas B. Easter C. Passover D. Thanksgiving
- ___ 10. A building where a family lives
A. market B. house C. temple D. tent

GOD'S GARDEN VIDEO CRAFTS : CRAFT 1; CLEANING THE STEPS OF THE TEMPLE ! Today we are making a maze in front of the Temple where Jesus got very angry at the people who were selling and cheating the good people who were coming to temple to worship God. "This is God's house and you have made it a den of thieves! " **LET'S CLEAN THEM OUT BY ROLLING YOUR MARBLE INTO EACH OF THEIR CORNERS,"**

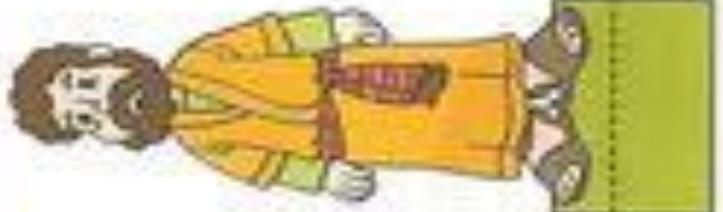
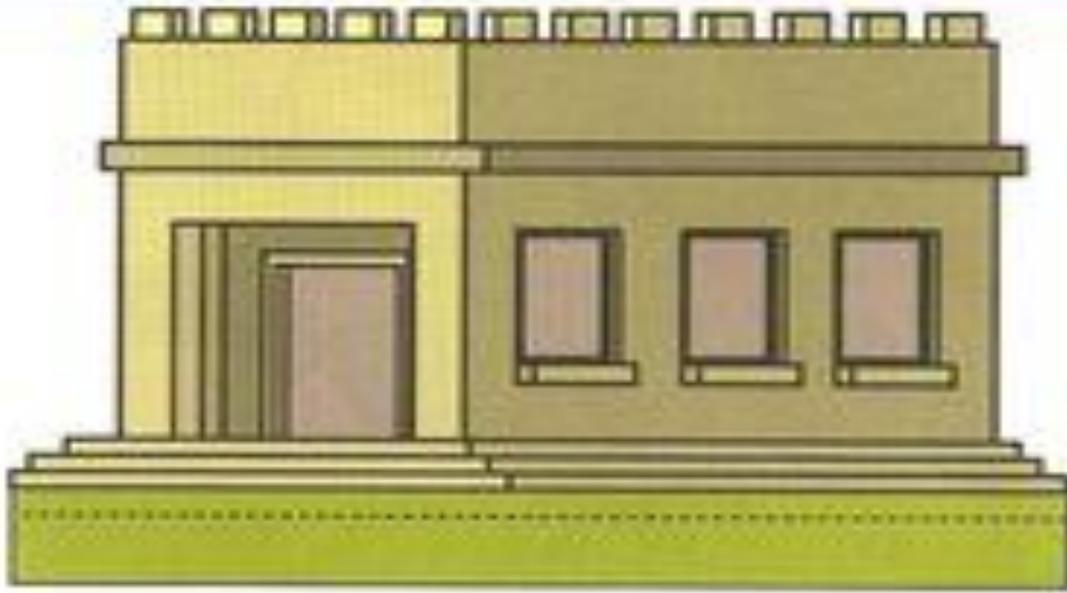
The Maze has four corners and a picture of the temple at the beginning. The 4 corners represent the 1. Crooked moneychanger, 2. The seller of doves 3. The seller of sheep and 4. The seller of cows – all who charged way too much money!! Not to mention they set up shop on the steps of the Temple. How would we feel if the same sort of thing happened on the front steps of St. Thomas?

Here are a few samples of ways you can make a maze. **YOU WILL NEED:** a box such as holds pop cans, playdoh or other ideas, glue, the cutouts below, marbles .

Watch God's Garden Video for the directions.



Cut and paste the temple picture on the side of your box. Label each of the people as dove seller, cow seller, sheep seller and money changer and glue them to the corners of the box.



Craft 2: This week's lesson is about people who were not being kind and who are stealing and cheating from good people. It made Jesus very upset! We need to be careful of the

things we do as well. For this craft we will also learn a song; Help your child to make foot prints, hand prints, and a heart shape using paints or markers, or crayons etc. Add other body parts as you want according to the song. Listen to God's Garden Video to learn the tune. It is simple and sweet way to learn be kind to others.

These ideas are just ideas. Be creative with your child/ren.



*Be careful little hands what you do.
Be careful little hands what you do.
For the Father up above is looking down with love.
Be careful little hands what you do.*

*Be careful little feet where you go.
Be careful little feet where you go.
For the Father up above is looking down with love.
Be careful little feet where you go.*

Be careful little heart what you feel.

Be careful little eyes what you see.

Be careful little ears what you hear.

Be careful little mouth what you say.