



MAY 10, 2026

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

JOHN 2

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God's glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

MEMORY VERSE

1 John 3:5

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' cleansing of the temple reveals His holiness as the Messiah and His willingness to take on our sin so that we, too, may be cleansed. In this passage, Jesus demonstrated His desire to honor His Father and do His will—a foretaste of the lengths He would go to cleanse us of our sin when we trust Him by faith.

Jesus confronted the immorality taking place in His Father's house; however, He was not reacting rashly. Scripture tells us He took time to fashion a whip out of cords. Imagine Jesus weaving each cord while He pondered the holiness of His Father in heaven. Christ displayed His authority as the Son of God as He fulfilled the Passover tradition of cleansing one's home of leaven.

God's temple was to be a place of worship and prayer, not a marketplace for people to turn a profit. As the disciples witnessed the scene unfolding before them, they recalled the words of Psalm 69:9, that zeal for the house of God would consume the Messiah. They watched Him cast off the sinful social norms of their day as He fulfilled the will of the everlasting Father.

When the Jews questioned Jesus' authority in the temple, He responded with these prophetic words: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." They failed, however, to realize that He wasn't speaking about the structure in which they stood; rather, He declared that though His body would soon be destroyed on the cross, He would rise again after three days' time.

Pray that the kids you teach will recognize the holiness of God and the willingness of His Son to take on the punishment we deserve for our sins. Lead them to see that Christ has already borne our shame on the cross and completed the work needed to secure our salvation. May they turn to Him to be cleansed of their sin.

MOTHER'S DAY

Remember that while most kids will enjoy celebrating Mother's Day today, there are some who have lost their mom or do not have a good relationship with them. If a kid doesn't want to participate, don't force them to. Be sensitive to kids' emotions, reactions, and needs this morning and be available if they want to talk.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the memory verse activity below!

MEMORY VERSE

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

1 John 3:5, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on May 24!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When He arrived at the temple, Jesus saw people selling oxen, sheep, and doves. He also saw money changers sitting in the temple. This made Jesus angry because the temple was a place of worship and prayer—not a house of business.

Jesus made a whip, and He drove everyone out of the temple—all the merchants with their sheep and oxen. He poured out all the coins from the money changers and turned over all their tables. “Get these things out of here!” He said. “Stop making my Father’s house into a house of business!”

His disciples remembered how David said the Messiah would be overwhelmed with great love and respect for God’s house.

Then the Jews said, “What sign will you show us for doing these things?”

Jesus replied, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.”

The Jews responded. “This temple took 46 years to build. How will you raise it up in three days?”

But Jesus wasn’t speaking about the temple of God. Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body. Later, after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered Jesus said these things. The disciples believed the Scriptures and what Jesus had said that day.

As Jesus remained in Jerusalem during the Passover, many believed in His name when they saw the signs He was doing. But Jesus didn’t entrust His life to them. He didn’t need anyone to tell him what people were like because He already knew the sin that was inside of people.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God’s glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

ACTIVITY: MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT

Today, we're going to celebrate our moms and other mother-figures in our lives by making a craft to give them!

Pass out the provided bead boards and beads. There will be examples and templates available for kids to follow, or they can make their own!

Once they're done placing all the beads on the board, use the provided mini iron to heat them to finish the craft. *Leaders should be the only ones using/touching the mini iron!*

First hour leaders: Kids are welcome to make multiple, but be mindful of the number of supplies left for second hour.



BIBLE SKILLS: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PUZZLE

Pass out the provided puzzles and encourage kids to become familiar with the books of the Bible and what order they're in. For younger kids, focus on helping them get familiar with the book names and which ones are in the Old or New Testament. For older kids, challenge them to put the books in order without help and/or start introducing the concept of the various genres the books are written in.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Why was Jesus so serious about keeping the temple holy?
2. Are most people good?
3. Who paid the price for our sins?
4. What does it mean that God knows the hearts of people?
5. Is being angry about something sinful? Why or why not?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the “extra time” folder on the TV.

If there’s a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!