

# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

# LEADER DEVO

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.

**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.**

# ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

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

*1 John 3:5*



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

**MAY 24**

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

### THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, 1 John 3:5 will look like:

Y K T H A I O T T A S A I H T I N S

# LESSON

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.

# SMALL GROUPS

## OUR GOAL

**To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.**

## DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) Why was Jesus so serious about keeping the temple holy?
- 2) What does it mean that God knows the hearts of people?
- 3) Is being angry about something sinful?
- 4) What does Jesus give as His reason for being right in His actions?
- 5) How did Jesus respond to your sin? How does that make you feel?

# PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

# CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!