

## Jesus Clears the Temple

**13** It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. **14** In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. **15** Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. **16** Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

**17** Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."<sup>[c]</sup>

**18** But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

**19** "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

**20** "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" **21** But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

## Jesus and Nicodemus

**23** Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. **24** But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. **25** No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.



## Opening Activity – Jesus is Our Sacrifice – Mad Lib Setup

Supplies – writing utensil

For today's lesson, we are going to do a little mad lib, which means YOU are going to help write it. First I will need some words, so listen carefully, and raise your hand if you have an idea.

1. (name)
2. (thing)
3. (place)
4. (man's name)
5. (number)
6. (animal-plural)
7. (store)
8. (amount of money)

## Lesson – Jesus is Our Sacrifice

One day 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ was going to the temple to make a sacrifice, which is something you give to God. It can be because you want to worship God, or it can be because you have done something wrong. And for 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_, it was because he/she did something wrong; he/she stole a 2. (thing) \_\_\_\_\_ from the 3. (place) \_\_\_\_\_.

When 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ got to the temple, the priest 4. (man's name) \_\_\_\_\_ went out to meet him/her, and when he heard about the stolen 2. (thing) \_\_\_\_\_, he told 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ he/she would need to bring 5. (number) \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (animal-plural) \_\_\_\_\_.

1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ was in shock! 5. (number) \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (animal-plural) \_\_\_\_\_ !

So 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ went out into the open temple grounds to visit the 7. (store) \_\_\_\_\_. It was right there in the temple! This was going to make it easy to find those 5. (number) \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (animal-plural) \_\_\_\_\_.

But easy turned out to be expensive. 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ was in shock. It was going to cost 8. (amount of money) \_\_\_\_\_, twice as much money as it should be! What was 1. (name) \_\_\_\_\_ going to do?

Ok, time to get a little more serious.

One day Jesus went to that temple, and He saw the sellers taking so much money from the people for their sacrifices. This was not right! **This is not how you act in the temple, and this is not what you do with sacrifices to God!** So Jesus told all of the workers and shoppers, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

The people were in shock. *Who was this guy? Why did it matter what He thought? Why do you think it mattered to Jesus?*

Jesus knew more than anyone the power and importance of a sacrifice. He was about to be a sacrifice Himself, and He didn't want His sacrifice to be meaningless like these marketplace sacrifices were. He wanted His sacrifice to mean so much more! He needed it to mean more. This was the only way these people were going to be able to live in heaven with Him. And if they saw His sacrifice on the cross as just another way to make money, or a careless request for forgiveness, they wouldn't make it.





Cleansing the Temple

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# 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)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N  
H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V  
A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S  
N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C  
G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A  
E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T  
R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T  
S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E  
H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R  
J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E  
P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D  
E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V  
W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z  
N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S  
K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS