

# CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

John 2:13-25

**KIDS**  
**3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Key Verse:**

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”  
John 2:19

**The Point:**

Jesus’ life, death and resurrection bring life in a way that human actions cannot.

**Making Connections:**

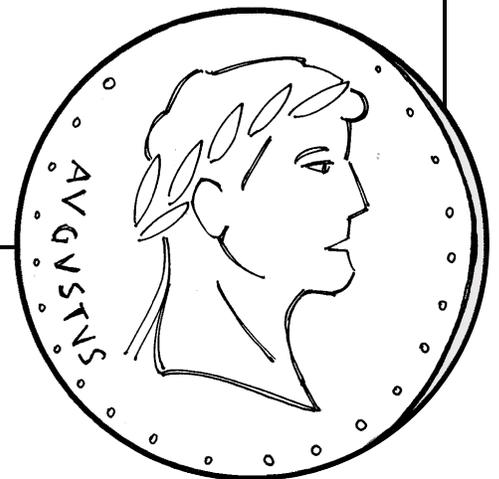
Encountering the Messiah

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Old Testament References

**Spiritual Practice:**

Prayer



---

---

# BACKGROUND

## **Making Connections**

Following the story of the miracle at the wedding in Cana, we now encounter the Messiah as Jesus takes his first bold public stand by clearing out the money changers and merchants in the temple. Not only was Jesus making a bold statement about protecting worship space, he was also making a stand against the exploitative practices of the wealthy selling to the vulnerable worshippers traveling from distant places.

## **Story Summary:**

### ***Cleansing the Temple***

Jesus was zealous about the temple being a place of worship and prayer because he knew people needed a place to connect with God. The difficulty with temple worship in Jesus' time was that the temple was used for many other things besides worship. It was a cultural center, a center for debate and politics, and a place for commerce.

Jesus took a stand to oppose those who were hurting worship, even though it would make them angry. Jesus demonstrated his willingness to be public in his commitment to his faith and principles. He knew what he was doing was disruptive and destructive, and will not be received well by those in power. He also likely realized there would be retaliation for his actions. Nonetheless, he takes this action believing it is better to invoke anger from some if it will create a better world for others.

## **The Point**

**Jesus' life, death and resurrection bring life in a way that human actions cannot.** While Jesus works to keep the physical temple a place for worship and prayer, Jesus also refers to himself as a temple. In the same way that the temple in Jerusalem provided a place for God's people to find their center and worship God, Jesus also acts as our spiritual center and connection with God.

## **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

### ***Old Testament References***

In the New Testament, there are over 2,000 direct quotations from the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). There are 26 more instances where the text is merely referenced. These quotes and references occur in every New Testament book except Philemon and 2 and 3 John. Most of these references come from the Psalms or the Prophets, especially Isaiah. These original writings were of great importance to God's people, and their message carried great impact.

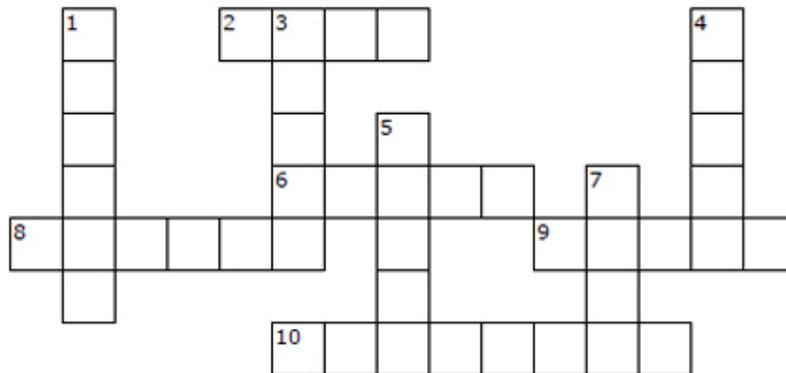
## **Spiritual Practice: Prayer**

Jesus is defending the right of the people to worship. Jesus knows that our life is sustained by our continued connection with God. We can follow Jesus' example by honoring our need for regular prayer time and creating our own special prayer rituals that support and nurture our relationship with God. It is worthy of our time and intention to think about creating our own prayer place, where we can feel unhurried and restful and can guard against distractions.

# 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)



## ACROSS

2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
6. An animal raised for its wool
8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

## DOWN

1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
3. A building where a family lives
4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
5. The Son of God
7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

# 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

# JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

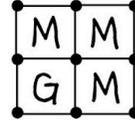




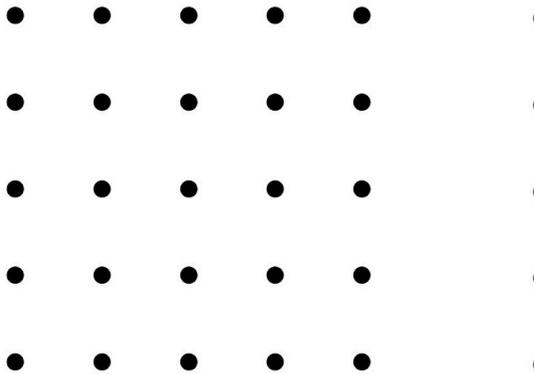
# Dots and Boxes

Play: Each player takes turn drawing one line between two dots (no diagonals!) If that line completes a square, the player writes their initial in the box and draws another line. Play continues until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!

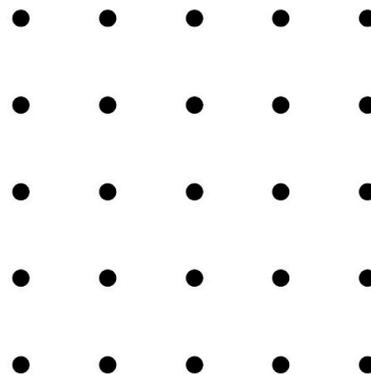
sample: M wins!



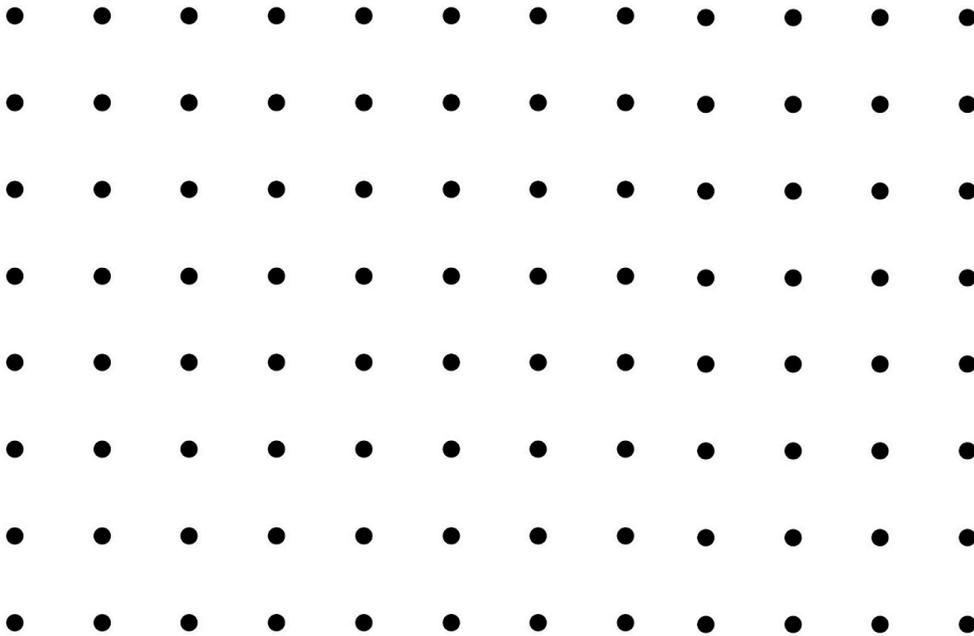
Game 1

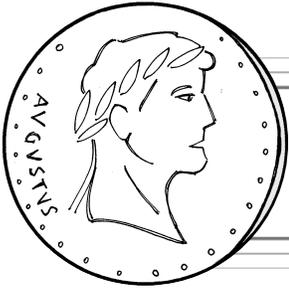


Game 2



Game 3





# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

**Lesson #4-19**  
**John 2:13-25**

## LAST WEEK

Jesus' public ministry began with a miracle at a wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus transformed water into wine, providing more than enough for the needs of the feast (John 2:1-11).

## THIS WEEK

Jesus chases the money changers out of the temple, and makes a prophecy about his own resurrection (John 2:13-25).

## STORY SUMMARY

### Cleansing the Temple

Jesus was zealous about the temple being a place of worship and prayer because he knew people needed a place to connect with God. The temple was used for many other things besides worship. It was a cultural center, a center for debate and politics, and a place for commerce. Jesus took a stand to oppose those who were hurting worship, even though it would make them angry. Jesus demonstrated his willingness to be public in his commitment to his faith and principles.

## PRACTICE PRAYER

Jesus knows that our spiritual life is sustained by our continued connection with God. We can create a regular prayer time and our own prayer rituals that nurture our relationship with God. Set aside a place for family members to find quiet to pray.

## THE POINT

Jesus' life, death and resurrection bring life in a way that human actions cannot.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *Old Testament References*

In the New Testament, there are over 2,000 direct quotations from the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). There are 26 more instances where the text is merely referenced. These quotes and references occur in every New Testament book except Philemon and 2 and 3 John. Most of these references come from the Psalms or the Prophets, especially Isaiah. These original writings were of great importance to God's people, and their message carries great impact.

## NEXT WEEK

A Pharisee, Nicodemus, comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness, asking questions and seeking understanding. As Jesus explains his ministry, the Pharisee becomes more confused (John 3:1-21).

### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

**Sunday—Read John 2:13-25**

The Messiah chases the money changers from the temple. Spend time cleaning your home together and preparing it for Jesus.

**Monday—Read Jeremiah 7:1-11**

Jeremiah prophesies that the temple will become a house of robbers. Pray for forgiveness for the things that you have done, those actions that get between you and God, that keep you from keeping your “temple” clean.

**Tuesday—Read Zechariah 6:9-15**

Zechariah prophesies about the future temple. If you have something that can be used as a crown, take turns wearing it. Tell how you would rule justly and peacefully.

**Wednesday—Read Zechariah 14:20-21**

The future temple has no salespeople. Cook something for dinner in a pot. Thank God for being present in your home.

**Thursday—Read Revelation 21:22-26**

God and the Lamb are the temple. Go outside and look at the sun or the moon. The glory of God shines brighter than either of these!

**Friday—Read Isaiah 56:1-7**

The Lord’s house is a house of prayer. Think of ways that you can make your house a house of prayer. Share your ideas together, and commit to one of them.

**Saturday—Read Psalm 69:9**

Zeal for the house of the Lord and a prayer for deliverance. What is the one thing that excites you the most about your church?