

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 36

**JESUS CLEARS THE
TEMPLE**

MARK 11:15-19

Life of Christ

Jesus Clears the Temple

Mark 11:15-19

Younger Verse

“My temple will be a house where people of all nations will pray.” Mark 11:17

Older Verse

“It is written in the Scriptures, ‘My temple will be a house where people of all nations will pray.’” Mark 11:17

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus told the people not to sell things in the temple
Understand why God did not like what the people were doing
Recognize that Jesus showed His authority as God’s Son

Opener

Sometimes we do things for the wrong reasons. We may go somewhere or do something to make ourselves look good. But God wants us to have the right attitude when we come to His house.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus and the disciples were making their way to Jerusalem. On the way there, they stopped in Jericho. There Jesus healed a blind man named Bartimaeus. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people threw their coats and palm leaves on the road in front of Jesus. Jesus rode a donkey as He passed through all the people. They shouted praises to God as He went by them. Unfortunately, the people did not really understand who Jesus was or why He was coming. Do any of you remember why Jesus went to Jerusalem? He had told His disciples three different times that He was going to die on the cross and come back to life.

After Jesus had gone into Jerusalem, He went to the Temple. This was the large area where the Jewish people worshipped God. Jesus knew that the people were doing things that God didn’t like. Some people were trying to make money inside the temple. They had cages with animals and birds. They knew that the Jewish people had to bring animals to sacrifice to God. They wanted to make it convenient for the people and sell them the animals inside God’s house.

Jesus went over to the tables and benches and turned them over! He told all the people who were buying and selling things not to carry anything inside the temple. Jesus wanted the people to understand what the purpose of a church was. They were using it as a business, instead of a place to grow closer to God. Jesus said, “My house will be called a house of prayer for all people. But you have made it a den of robbers.” When the people saw Jesus say and do these things, they were amazed.

Jesus was speaking for God when He said this. God knew that these people needed to be stopped. They were turning people away from *true* worship of God. Jesus sent a strong mes-

sage from God: Treat God's house with respect. Make sure your heart is right with God and that you are there to worship *Him* and connect with *Him*.

The religious leaders saw all of this. They did not like what Jesus did. They wanted to keep things the way they were. These men did not really know God in their heart and they did not care about helping others to know God. They REALLY did not like that the people were amazed as Jesus taught them. They did not want people to start liking Him. They began to look for ways to kill Jesus.

Jesus went to Jerusalem to die on the cross, and then three days later He came back to life. He died because He loved God and us so much that He wanted us to be with Him in Heaven. If we ask Jesus to clean our heart of all our sins, bad things we do, then He does it immediately! If any of you would like to know more about Jesus, please talk with me before you leave.

Review Questions

1. What were the people in the temple doing that Jesus did not like? (They were buying and selling animals.)
2. What did Jesus do when He saw this? (He turned over the tables of the merchants.)
3. What did Jesus say God's house was to be used for? (a place of prayer for all people)

Prayer Time

Thank God that we can come into His presence. Pray that we will honor Him with our worship and with our lives.

Life Application

Jesus wants our heart to be a place that honors God, too. If Jesus is not the most important part of our life, He knows. It makes Him sad because He loves us very much. Is there anything that you're doing that you know Jesus would not be pleased with? Jesus can help you to change whatever it is.

Planning for Lesson 37
Jesus' Power Comes from God
Mark 11:22-33

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Clears the Temple

Hey boys and girls! I am so glad to see all of you here in Bible study. Today we will travel with Jesus and the disciples. Ready? Let's go!

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. Jesus had a very important reason for going there. He had told His disciples the reason three times! Who remembers what He said? He was going to make a way for us to be with Him in heaven. He would die on the cross and come back to life.

Once Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He wanted to go to one place before He went anywhere else. What place do you think that was? He wanted to go to church. He wanted to join the other people as they sang to God, read the Bible, and learned about God.

When He got to the church, there was a problem! What do you think it was? Some of the people inside were trying to make money, instead of learning about God. They would buy and sell things to other people. They would steal people's money. They did not care at all about God or the people that wanted to learn about God.

How do you think this made Jesus feel? He got upset! So what do you think He did? He went to their work tables and turned them over. He told all the people not to carry anything inside the temple. Why did Jesus do this?

He knew what a church was for and those people did not. When Jesus did this, He did not sin, but He was showing the people that God was not pleased with how they were using the church.

He told the people that God's house was meant to be used for prayer. The people heard this and were amazed! They wanted to hear more. There were some of the leaders of the church that did not want to do what Jesus said. They began to make plans to find a way to get rid of Jesus.

It is important for us to learn about God so we can know what to do. He helps us to make good choices. When we make those good choices He is pleased with us. What are some ways we can please God?

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Clears the Temple

Talk about the lesson and help the kids learn that Jesus did not do wrong when He was angry and upset. Ask the kids to think of ways that they can NOT do wrong when they are angry.

Let the children make coin rubbings. Place a coin under a piece of paper. Rub with a crayon or pencil to see the indentions. Talk about the importance of loving God more than loving money.

Ask the kids if they think of their church as a place to pray. Ask them how it can be improved. Think about ways to be a church of prayer.

Talk about prayer and how to pray. Take time to ask for requests and needs. Then make a circle and pray!

If possible, bring coins from other countries. Explain how they have to be traded for the money of the country a person is in. Remind them that the people were doing this in the story—except they were cheating the people.

Sing or play the song “Heart of Worship.” Teach it to the kids. You may want to copy the words for the older students. Talk with them about how God sees what is in our hearts and minds. We cannot hide from Him!

“My temple will be a place where people of all nations will pray.”

Mark 11:17



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Scriptures, ‘My temple
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Word Search

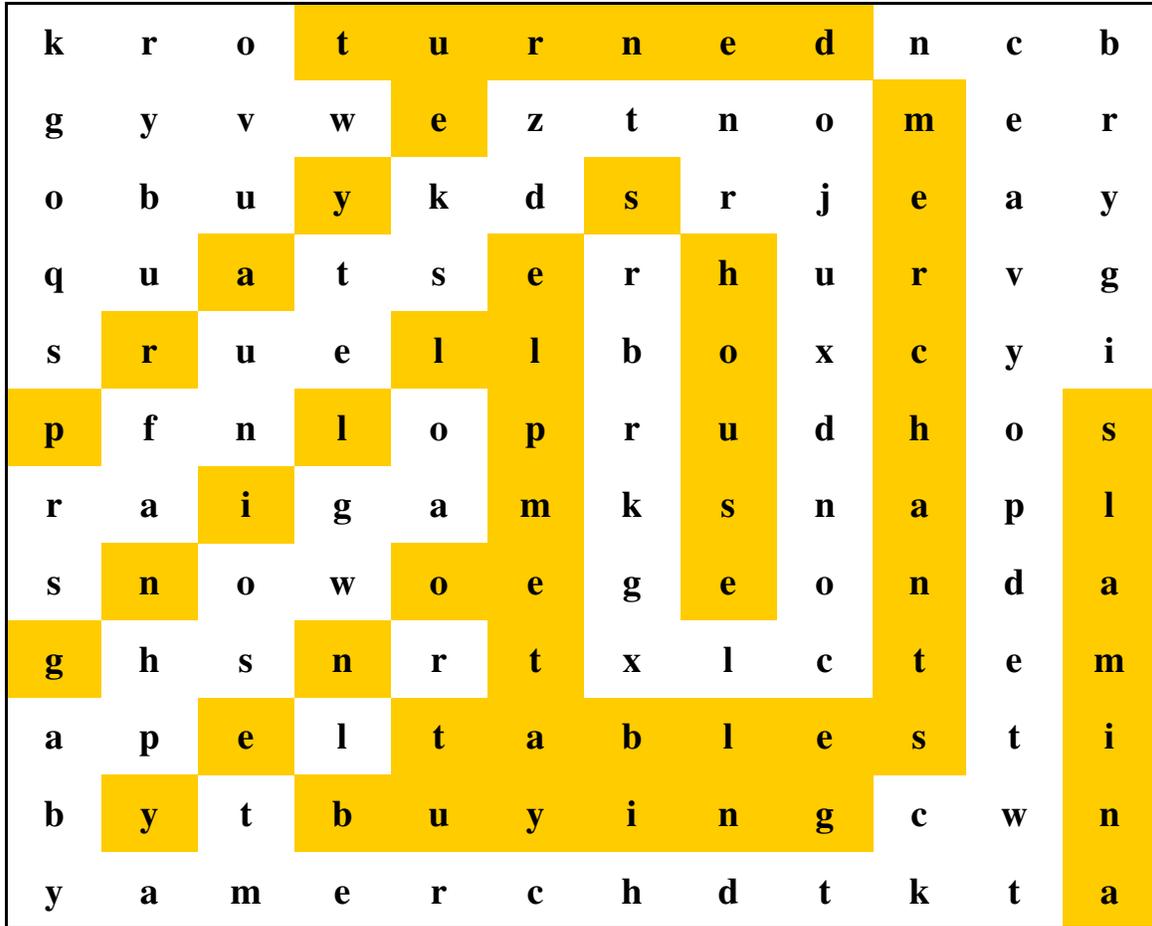
Jesus Clears the Temple

k	r	o	t	u	r	n	e	d	n	c	b
g	y	v	w	e	z	t	n	o	m	e	r
o	b	u	y	k	d	s	r	j	e	a	y
q	u	a	t	s	e	r	h	u	r	v	g
s	r	u	e	l	l	b	o	x	c	y	i
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a	p	e	l	t	a	b	l	e	s	t	i
b	y	t	b	u	y	i	n	g	c	w	n
y	a	m	e	r	c	h	d	t	k	t	a

temple	selling	buying
merchants	money	prayer
house	animals	tables
turned		

Word Search

Jesus Clears the Temple



temple	selling	buying
merchants	money	prayer
house	animals	tables
turned		

Jesus said His house should be
a place where people

PRAY



But the people had made it a
D__n of r__bb__rs