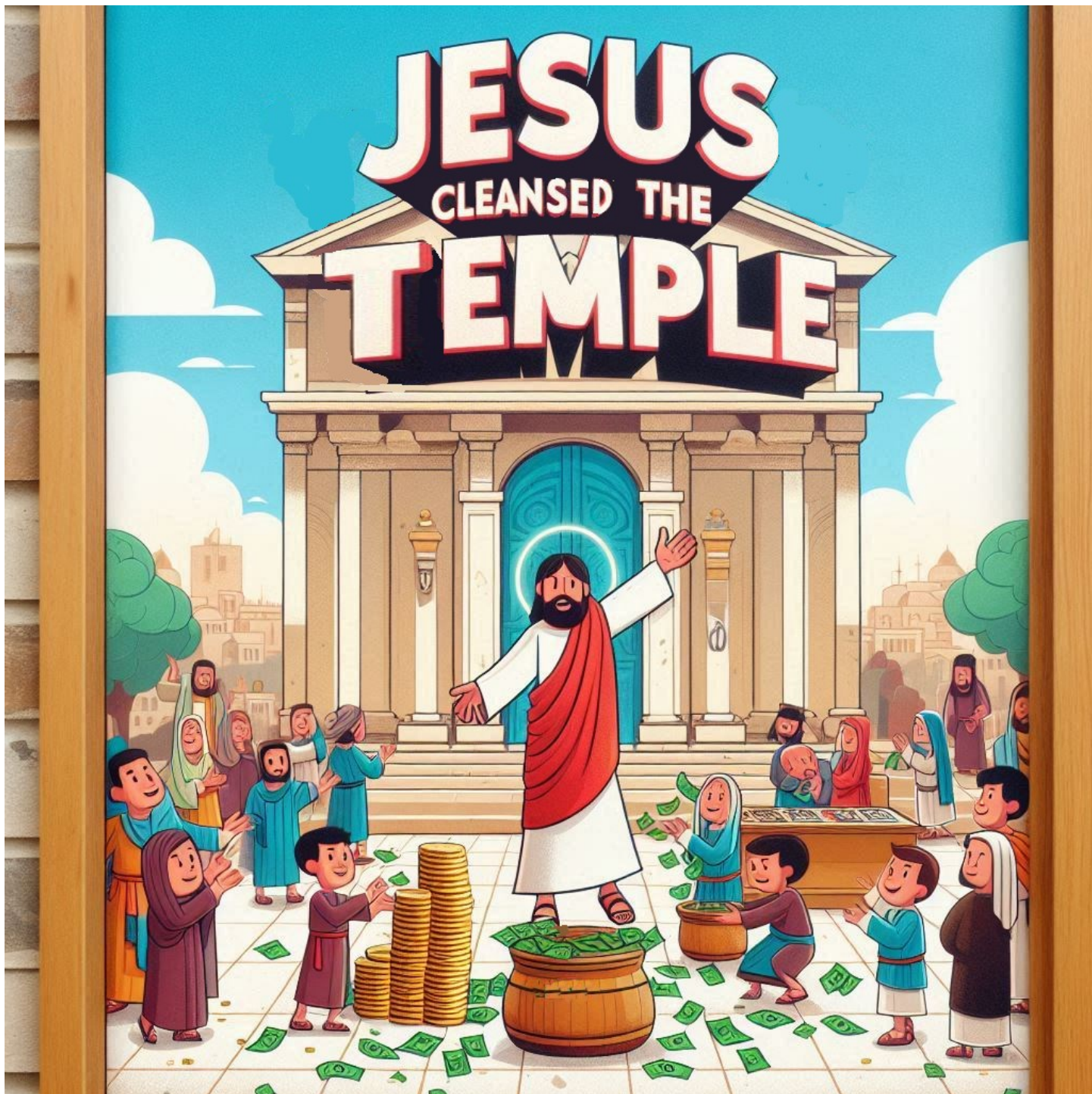




Quarter 3 — Lesson 36



Jesus Cleansed the Temple (Why?)

Introduction

Can you sell God?

Can you buy God?

In Bible times, some people were trying to get rich off God by cheating God's people. They were trying to get rich off God's temple. Can you guess what Jesus thought about this?

The money changers were making it hard for common people to worship God. Jesus was willing to take a stand when necessary to preserve the integrity of His Father's house.

Discuss

Can you think of ways people try to get rich off God today?

(Allow answers)

Apply:

It's important to recognize what true worship means, and to see that we are made to worship God with all that we are, body and soul.

Consider what it means to "clean out" distractions and focus on the best ways to love and serve God.

Power Point

You have a
purpose: true
worship.

Activities

- Tug of war: have a gentle tug of war to illustrate the struggle between Jesus and the people.
- Have a wadded newspaper war and then a "church clean-up" to illustrate the lesson.
- Have a clutter cleanup relay race. *(Cleaning the Temple)*
- Take garbage bags out to pick up litter on the church grounds. *(Cleaning up)*



MEMORY VERSE

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

- John 2:19



Year 3—Quarter 3: Worship



Small Group Discussion

Have a small toy or object (*like a stuffed animal, a book, or a small toy car*). Ask your students to imagine that this object represents the temple. Then, ask them to think about what would happen if they started using it for wrong reasons (*like using a toy car as a hammer or a book as a pillow*). How would they feel? How would God feel? Discuss how Jesus wanted to make the temple a special place for worship again, and how we should strive to use our own lives and belongings for good.

Jesus' Authority: Discuss how Jesus' actions showed His authority as God's Son. He didn't just tolerate the corruption; He took bold action to correct it.

Application: Ask your students to think about times when they see people using something for the wrong reason, like a toy or game being used to cause trouble instead of for fun. Encourage them to remember Jesus' example and stand up for what is right, even if it's hard.

Prayer: Close your group time by praying together, asking God to help us keep our lives and the places we go holy and pure, just like Jesus wanted the temple to be.

Digging Deeper

Imagine you're walking into a beautiful, big church. But instead of seeing people praying and singing, you see vendors selling animals, birds, and money-changing tables. It's noisy and chaotic! This is what the temple was like when Jesus visited.

Jesus' Anger: Jesus saw that the temple, which was meant to be a holy place for worship, had become a marketplace. He was very angry because God's house was being used for wrong reasons. Jesus knew that God wanted people to come to the temple to pray and worship, not to buy and sell things.

The Cleansing: Jesus took a whip made of cords and started driving out the people who were selling and buying. He overturned the tables and scattered the money. This was a big mess! But Jesus was making a point: the temple belonged to God, and it was time to make it a special place again.

What We Can Learn: Just like Jesus, we should keep our hearts and actions pure and focused on worshiping God. We should respect the church and our own bodies as instruments to worship God.



Take-Home

Year 3, Lesson 36 — Jesus Cleansed the Temple

Summary

Bible Passage:

John 2:13-13

Main Point:

You have a purpose:
true worship.

Discuss:

Q: Why were the money changers in the temple?

A: Because some coins weren't allowed for buying sacrifices in the temple.

Q: Why was Jesus upset with the money changers?

A: They were making it hard for common people to worship God.

Explore the Bible

Read: John 2:13-14 Show your child the diagram or picture of the Temple and explain its importance as a place of worship for the Jewish people. Explain that Jesus went to the Temple during the Passover festival

Use coins or play money to demonstrate how some people were using the Temple for their own gain, rather than for worship. Explain that Jesus saw this and was upset because it dishonored God's house.

Worship Journal

Provide your child with a journal with blank pages. Explain to them that your family will be writing (or drawing) in their "Worship Journal" after each lesson.

- What does this lesson teach me about worshipping God?
- How has the Holy Spirit been helping me this week?
- Are there any commands in the Bible passages we read for me to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in these passages to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How have I experienced worshipping God this week?

Apply and Pray

Ask: How can we respect Jesus' authority in our daily words, thoughts, and actions?

Pray: "Dear Jesus, we respect You as our Savior and as our Lord. We ask your help to be the Boss on the inside of our hearts and clean out all the trash that You do not approve of."