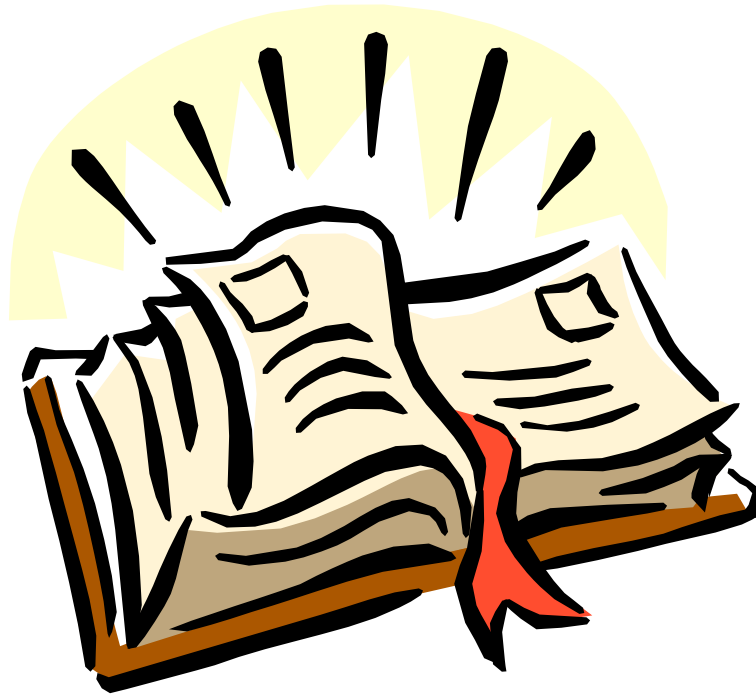


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

---

**LESSON TITLE: The Cleansing of the Temple**

**THEME: Jesus is worthy to be the Lord of  
our life.**

**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 2:13-22**



# Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about the time that **Jesus cleansed the temple (John 2:13-22)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. The religious leaders in Jesus' time were taking advantage of the people. They were actually stealing money from God's people by charging them too much money for the things needed for them to worship at the temple. Sadly, the people felt bad about coming to the temple to worship God.

The Bible says Jesus had a zeal for the house of the Lord. When He observed that the leaders were stealing from the people, He became angry--so angry that He took a whip and started to overturn the tables in the market area, demonstrating how important it is to not do anything that would keep people from knowing that **Jesus is worthy to be the Lord of our life**. May the message we carry to others be a true picture of who God is—A loving God who reaches out to a needy world His love and grace for a needy world. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

# Behaving in God's House

**Text: 1 Timothy 3:14,15** - "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

**Also read John 2:13-16**

Have you ever had a time when you just didn't feel like behaving in church? Maybe some of your friends were "acting up" or making some jokes, and it looked like a lot of fun. Have you ever thought about why it is so important to listen and behave in church? We have the privilege of gathering with others who love God in order to hear the teaching of the Word and strengthen and encourage each other. If we are serious about growing in our relationship with God, we will want to set aside all distractions and to listen carefully. And if we are concerned for others, we will not want to be a distraction to them.

The moneychangers in our story this week did not know how to act in God's house. They were taking advantage of the people who came to worship God, even stealing money from them! It became such a problem that it was no longer a happy time when people came to the Temple to worship God. God wanted His house to be a place of worship, a place where the people could come and learn more about Him, not a place where they would have their money stolen from them!

The church is God's house today. Maybe joking or not listening to our teachers is not as serious as stealing from people, but since it is important to the Lord that people who come to church have the opportunity to hear about Jesus and His love for them, let us be sure we listen well and do not distract others around us. Perhaps, there is someone in your class who has never asked Jesus into their heart. Let us respect the house of the Lord!

- How were the moneychangers acting in God's house?
- Why is it important that we respect the house of the Lord?
- What are two ways you can show respect in the house of the Lord?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



### Moneychanger:

People who would "trade" money from regular money to temple money so that the people could purchase things for worship. They were known for robbing the people of money. Jesus drove them out.

Day Two

## "Be Angry and Sin Not"

**Text: Ephesians 4:26** - "Be angry, and do not sin:" do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

**Also read Ephesians 4:26-32**

"I'm never going to speak to Katie again!" Joel boldly declared, "This is the final straw! I'm so mad I could just...just...." "Just forgive her?" Joel's mom interrupted. "Not quite what I had in mind," Joel replied. "She lost some pieces to my Monopoly game and not only that, she tore the corner of the box! Can you believe that? And I just got this game! I'm not going to just forgive her. Didn't Jesus get mad one time and throw everyone out of the Temple? Well, I'd like to throw Katie out of my room!" "Hold on!" replied Mom. Before you do that, let's look at what really happened in the Temple that day."

"Jesus definitely got angry that day, but it was a "right" anger. He had a good reason to be angry because the religious leaders at that time were turning God's house into a place where thieves hung out, stealing from all of God's people. Jesus had a 'zeal' or excitement about the things of God. He could not stand to see the religious leaders stealing from people who really loved God and wanted to worship Him. He saw this terrible thing happening and took action to correct it. His anger was in no way a selfish anger, but was to help others."

"Jesus still loved these people and desired to forgive them. He even asked the Father to forgive those who put Him on the cross because He said they didn't understand what they were doing. What love He has for us! What Jesus would have us to do is to forgive others as He has forgiven us. Ephesians 4:32 says, 'And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.'"

Katie went up to Joel and said, "I'm sorry for losing some of your game pieces. I'll keep on looking hard to try to find them." "I forgive you," Joel said, "I'll help you to look for them." "Doesn't it feel better to make things right?" Mom asked Joel. "It sure does!" Joel quickly responded.

- Tell about a time when you were angry. How did you handle it?
- Can you think of an example of what "right" anger would be?
- How does "right" anger compare with "selfish" anger?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Anger:** Getting really mad about something.

Day Three

# Raising Up the Temple

**Text: John 2:19** - "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"

**Also read John 2:18-22**

The religious leaders became pretty mad at Jesus when He cleared out the temple. This meant that their way of stealing money from the people was going to stop for a while. They wanted a sign from Jesus to prove He had the right to drive them out of the temple. In other words, what made Him the boss? Jesus had turned the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. No doubt the religious leaders had already heard about this. But, they still demanded a sign from Jesus.

Jesus gave them an amazing response. He told them that if they destroy this temple, He would raise it up again in three days. Thinking Jesus was talking about the temple building, which took 46 years to build, the religious leaders protested, stating there was no way the temple could be rebuilt in three days. But, Jesus was talking about the temple of His body. Jesus was giving them a sign—a sign that He was God come in the flesh—for this was a prophecy concerning His death and resurrection. He knew that one day His temple (body) would be destroyed--He would die on a cross. He also knew that three days later He would rise again from the dead. Jesus is the Son of God and had every right in the world to come in and clear out the moneychangers. Although His statement did not make sense to them (even His disciples didn't understand until He had risen from the dead), Jesus performed many miracles, giving sign after sign to the religious leaders of His time. But, they were blind and didn't want to change. It is sad that their hearts were so hard towards Jesus.

While reflecting sadly on the blindness of men whose hearts were closed and hard to His works and Word, Jesus remarked to His disciples, "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear..." *Blessed* means, "Oh, how happy!" What about you? Are you experiencing the joy of a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ? Don't miss out, like the religious leaders, on what God has for you. Open your heart up to Him.

- What was the sign that Jesus gave to the religious leaders?
- What temple was Jesus referring to?
- What could cause one to miss out on the blessings of a relationship with God?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Sign:** Something used to show or prove something. Usually refers to a miracle in the Bible.

# We Are His Temple

**Text: 1 Corinthians 6:19** - "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"

**Also read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20**

If you were to go to Jerusalem, today, you could go to the very place where the temple once stood. You can go to the same exact spot where the Israelites worshipped the Lord. You won't see the temple though since it has long since been destroyed. In that old temple there was a place called the Holy of Holies, which was a special place inside the temple. Inside you would find the Ark of the Covenant. God had Moses build the Ark of the Covenant as a symbol of God's presence with His special people, Israel. When Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem he put the Ark into the Temple in order to represent God's presence with His people.

When Jesus came things changed. Instead of dwelling in a temple made with hands, God now dwells in each one of us who believe in Jesus. Your body is called the temple of the Holy Spirit, because He is living inside of you. God's very presence lives inside of our hearts! What a wonderful thing! He helps us to live for Him and to choose to do what is right. He helps us to become more like Jesus.

But sometimes, we have things in our hearts that need to be "cleared out" like the moneychangers we read about in John 2:13-22. Maybe it is a bad attitude towards someone else, maybe we are refusing to forgive someone, maybe we are behaving selfishly. God loves us and is not content to let the temple of our heart be filled with junk that will hurt and destroy our relationship with Him. With our good in mind, He will come to clear out His temple. All our lives, we will continually need Jesus to keep His temple clear. It may not be fun while He is doing it, but what a blessing it is that He patiently works in our life conforming (making) us more like Jesus and keeping us close to Him. Praise the Lord!

- What city was the temple in during Jesus' time?
- When God dwells with His people today, where does He live?
- What does the Lord do in our temples?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Temple:** God's dwelling place, a place of worship. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Day Five

# A Living Sacrifice

**Text: Romans 12:1** - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

**Also read Romans 12:1,2**

We've learned a lot about temples this week. We learned about the temple where Jesus drove out the moneychangers, and we learned that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We can bring the Lord glory in His temple! Romans 12:1 tells us that we do not belong to ourselves anymore. When we believe in Jesus, we belong to the Lord, and should present ourselves as a "living sacrifice" to the Lord to serve Him. God has a purpose and plan for our lives; He wants to use us for His glory.

Are you serving God, now? You are never too young to be the servant of the Lord. There are a lot of examples in the Bible where God used some very young people to do some very great things.

Have you ever thought much about what you want to do when you grow up? Start asking the Lord, now, to show you what He wants you to do with your life. As you continue to follow Him, He will be faithful to guide you, for He has a plan for your life. He desires to do great things! Who knows how many people could be reached with the love of Jesus as you choose to commit your life fully to Him and His plans for you. Don't miss out!

- According to Romans 12:1, what should we present our bodies as?
- Do you need to be a grown-up to serve the Lord?
- How could you miss out if you do not commit yourself fully to serve God?

## Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, thank the Lord that He has given you eternal life. Thank Him that He chooses to dwell in our temples and helps to clear things out from time to time in our hearts. Ask Him to help you to know what His plans are for your life as you present yourself to Him.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'"

Third Grade and Above

"Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'"

John 2:17