



# Clearing Of The Temple

John 2:13-22

Big Idea: We are to be jealous for Jesus by wanting people to treat God properly (by worshipping God's Son, Jesus).

Author: Sandy Galea

Illustrator: Maggie Ha

## Instructions

Download the Kidswise file titled, Clearing Of The Temple Pictures.

The introduction and conclusion of this story need to be memorised.

## Requirements

- Narrator
- Pictures (see Instructions)
- Data projector
- Screen

## Script

Being jealous is when you want something other people have.

And because you can't have it - you become angry.

But there is good jealousy.

Being jealous for someone else.

Loving that person so much you want to protect them when others try and hurt them.

Jesus was jealous.

## Picture

He was jealous for his Father - God.

In John chapter 2 we see what Jesus' good jealousy looks like.

Picture 1: title

Many years ago God told Solomon to build a temple.

Picture 2

Even though God is everywhere – he promised his people he'd meet with them in his temple.

People came to God's temple to pray.

Picture 3

To praise God and to say sorry to him.

One day Jesus went to God's temple.

Picture 4

But he didn't see people praying to God.

Or saying sorry to God.

What he saw made him angry.

People were buying and selling things!

Picture 5

They were changing money.

And they were selling cows and sheep and doves.

Picture 6

It was more like a noisy market than a place to pray.

People were there to make money.

When Jesus saw this he became angry.

Picture 7

Jesus found some rope and made a whip.

Picture 8

He used the whip to chase the animals out of the temple.

Picture 9

Jesus turned over the tables - money fell all over the ground.

Picture 10

Then he turned to the people and said, "Get these people out of here. How dare you turn my Father's house into a noisy market."

Picture 11

And Jesus drove the people out of the temple.

Picture 12

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

There is a good jealousy and a bad jealousy.

Jesus was jealous.

His jealousy was good.

Jesus was jealous for his Father.

He wanted people to treat God properly.

That's why he drove them out of God's temple.

They were not worshipping God properly.

Children, if you love Jesus, then you are to have this good jealousy too.

We are to be jealous for Jesus.

We're to want everyone to treat God properly.

And the only way people can treat God properly is by worshipping Jesus - God's Son.

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# 6. Clearing Of The Temple

John 2:13-22

Big Idea: We are to be jealous for Jesus by wanting people to treat God properly (by worshipping God's Son, Jesus).

## Game: Clear The Room

**Warning:** do not play this game unless you have safety helmets and a good amount of space.

Need:

- Clear open space
- Cones (to define the area)
- 4 scooter boards
- 4 helmets
- 4 plastic tubs with handles
- Small plastic balls, lots and lots
- 2 minute egg timer
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Divide children into pairs.
- Four pairs play together as a team, while the others watch.
- Scatter small balls in the centre of the space.
- Each pair sets up - one in each of the four corners in the space.
- One child in each pair wears a helmet and lies on a scooter board holding a plastic tub.

- The other stands behind and grabs partner's legs.
- When the whistle blows, children on scooter boards are pushed forward in slow movements amongst the balls.
- The aim is for them to scoop up as many balls as they can and take them back into their corner.
- All four pairs work together to clear as many balls into corners as possible in the 2 minutes allocated.
- Blow the whistle at the end of 2 minutes and count balls.
- Swap to the next four pairs and repeat.
- The team of pairs who cleared the most balls wins.

Conclusion:

- The team who cleared the most balls was... (announce the winner).
- In John 2 we read that Jesus cleared an entire building.
- The building was the temple.
- People were supposed to come to the temple to pray and say sorry to God.
- But people had come to make money.
- God's temple had become a noisy market.
- So Jesus became angry.
- He cleared the temple of animals, money tables and people.
- He was jealous for God, his Father.
- And his jealousy was a good jealousy.

## Game: Clear The Temple

Need:

- Clear open space
- Cones (to define the area)
- Large pile of soft toy cows, sheep, birds (can be plastic versions of cows and sheep and origami birds)
- Large pile of play coins (silver or gold)
- Five hoops
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Place four hoops in a square about 4 metres apart.
- Place the last hoop in the centre of the square.
- Divide children into four teams.
- Stand each team behind one of the four corner hoops.
- Use the introduction below.
- Children run and collect one item at a time (i.e. one cow or one coin...) and run it back to their hoop.
- Next child in line does the same thing.
- Continue until no items are left in the centre.

- Count up how many items each team collected.
- Team with the most items wins.

Introduction:

- The temple was full of people buying and selling (pick up a coin from the centre pile).
- And full of people buying and selling animals (pick up an animal from the centre pile).
- They'd turned God's temple from a place to pray to a noisy shop.
- And Jesus got upset.
- They were not being respectful to God.
- So he cleared the temple.
- And that's what we're going to do now.
- We're going to clear the hoop in the middle.  
(demonstrate the rules of the game)

## Introductory Activity: Good vs. Bad Jealousy

Need:

- Clear open space

Instructions:

- Have leaders mime the following and children need to vote good jealousy (thumbs up), bad jealousy (thumbs down).
- Mimes:

Leader jealous of another leader's new phone.

Leader jealous that the other leader got picked to play.

Leader jealous that another leader can sing and they sound terrible.

Conclusion:

- They all had bad jealousy.
- We all know what bad jealousy is because that's the one we see more and do more.
- Jesus was jealous.
- But his jealousy was only ever good.
- He saw that people were not worshipping God with respect.
- So he drove them out of God's temple.
- Today we're going to explore what it looks like to be jealous for God.
- To be jealous that others worship God properly.

## Singing

See page 5 for song suggestions. Sing 2/3 songs about worshipping God properly.

## Memory Verse

John 3:16

Purchase the audio track of this verse here <http://bit.ly/jn-3-16>

## Mini Movie

Watch the YouTube clip below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLoVY5FD6wA>

**Note:** this does go into the other gospel accounts towards the end.

## Small Group Time

Need:

- Copy of the booklet from last week titled, Who Is Jesus? One booklet per child. **Note:** do not send this booklet home until the end of this unit.
- Set of coloured markers or pencils
- Set of International Children's Bibles (ICB)

**Warning:** *this first question may provoke painful memories for children. Act appropriately if children disclose anything of an abusive nature.*

Icebreaker:

- Have you ever seen your parents become upset because someone hurt you or someone in your family?

Read John 2:13-14

- Describe in your own words to the person sitting beside you what Jesus would have seen, heard and smelled as he went into the temple?

(he'd have seen lots of animals and people, tables piled high with money, he'd have heard sheep bleating, cows mooing, doves cooing, people talking loudly and the clinking of coins, he'd have smelled animal waste and animal feed)

- If you didn't know it was God's temple Jesus had walked into, where might you have thought he was?  
(a market or noisy shop)

Read John 2:16

- What did Jesus say they'd turned the temple into?  
(a noisy marketplace, a shop)

Booklet:

- Find the page with the whip and the title, Jesus Clears The Temple John 2:13-17.

Read John 2:15-16

- Draw and label everything Jesus cleared from the temple.  
(i.e. sheep, cows, people, turned over tables, scattered money over the floor, told people to take the birds out)

Think It Through:

- Why do you think Jesus did all this?

Read John 2:17

Booklet:

- As the disciples watched Jesus do this they remembered what was written in Psalm 69:9.
- Look up this verse then write in your answer at the bottom of the page why you think Jesus cleared the temple.
- Share what you wrote with the person beside you.

Conclusion:

- Jesus was upset and he was right to be upset.
- They had turned God's temple into a noisy marketplace.
- They had not come there to say sorry to God and pray.
- They'd come to make money.
- Jesus was right to clear them from God's temple.
- He was jealous that people treat God properly.

Think It Through:

- People say they love God, but have no time for Jesus. Can you love God the Father and not love Jesus?  
(the only way people can treat God properly is by worshipping Jesus, God's Son)



Application (select from below options):

- Does it upset you when you see or hear people speaking rudely about God or Jesus?
- Jesus was jealous for his Father and so he cleared the temple. What do we do to show we are jealous that people worship God properly?

## Prayer Time

Ask God to help us be jealous for Jesus in the right way.