

Dear Parents,

In preparation for the Passover feast, Jesus made His triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple there. The temple was surrounded by walls and gates, with specific places for Gentiles, women, and men to worship God and offer sacrifices. The temple was a symbol of God’s presence among His people.



When Jesus entered the Court of the Gentiles, He was furious to see people buying and selling in the temple. Animal sacrifices were required for participation in the temple (see Deut. 16:16). For many worshipers traveling from all over the Roman Empire to take part in Passover, it was easier to purchase unblemished animals for sacrificing in the Court of the Gentiles. There, they also exchanged foreign currency for the temple taxes and offerings.

The merchants buying and selling in the temple were treating the temple as a market or bazaar, not like the house of prayer for all nations that God had intended for it to be (see Isa. 56:7). The money changers’ prices were so exorbitant, they were practically robbing the people (Mark 11:17). People were also using the temple courts as a shortcut to get to their businesses. Jesus threw out the merchants and money changers. He was committed to honoring God. The chief priests and the scribes saw what happened, and they wanted to destroy Jesus (Luke 19:47).

When Jesus cleared the dishonest people from the temple, He showed His commitment to honoring God. God is infinitely worthy of our reverence, honor, and love, and He justly demands this of us. The temple was supposed to be a place where people could pray and worship God, and Jesus demonstrated how a nonchalant and casual view of God is sinful. Jesus was going to die on the cross to take away people’s sins so anyone who trusts in Him no longer needs a temple, but can come to God directly and worship Him in spirit and truth (see John 4:21-24). Now, every believer is a temple of God (1 Cor 3:16), and we can come together as the church and worship Him and encourage one another in the truth.

Family Starting Points – Bible Passages: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

Preschool	Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do people at church share the Lord’s Supper? People at church share the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ life and death. • Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple. • Key Passage: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18a, CSB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do believers share the Lord’s Supper? Believers share the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns. • Jesus drove out the people who were misusing the temple • Key Passage: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, (Luke 4:18, CSB)