



Bible Study Guide: Cleansing The Temple

Based on John 2:13–25 (ESV)

Theme: Honoring God's House — Our Bodies, Our Worship, Our Commitment

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand the spiritual significance of Jesus cleansing the temple, identify what corrupts our "temples" today, and encourage believers to honor God by purifying their hearts, homes, and places of worship.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 2:13–25 (ESV)

Key Verse:

“Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.” — *John 2:16*

LESSON CONTEXT

The temple in Jerusalem was the religious and cultural heart of Jewish life. By the time of Jesus, corruption had crept in—sacrificial animals were being sold for profit and currency exchanges defiled the holy courts. Jesus' righteous anger revealed His commitment to restoring reverence in God's house.

The temple also symbolizes us—our bodies, our churches, and our communities—now the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16–17).

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Jesus' Actions (John 2:13–17)

- Jesus enters the temple during Passover and sees commerce where there should be worship.
- He makes a whip and drives out the merchants and money-changers.
- He declares: "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

Reflection:

- What does Jesus' zeal reveal about His expectations for God's house?
- What does God desire in His house—and in us?

Discussion:

- What does "cleansing the temple" look like in today's world?
- Are there things in your life that dishonor God's presence in you?

II. Jesus' Announcement (John 2:18–22)

- The Jewish leaders demand a sign for His authority.
- Jesus says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- They misunderstand; He refers to His body as the new temple.

Reflection:

- Jesus shifts the idea of God's dwelling from buildings to His body—and later to us as the Body of Christ.

Discussion:

- What signs do you look for when you feel God is moving or speaking?
- Is it right to ask God for a sign? (See Mark 8:11–12)

III. Who to Believe? (John 2:23–25)

- Many believed in Jesus because of His miracles.
- But Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew what was in their hearts.

Reflection:

- Jesus desires not surface-level faith but sincere belief and transformation.
- He sees the heart behind the action.

Discussion:

- What does authentic faith look like in you?
- How do we remain zealous and honest in our walk with Christ?

APPLICATION: YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
— *1 Corinthians 3:16–17, KJV*

Practical Steps:

1. Identify one area of your life (habits, relationships, environment) that needs spiritual cleansing.
2. Create a personal “temple cleansing plan”—a step you will take to honor God more fully in that area.
3. Share with someone you trust who can pray with you and hold you accountable.

Activity:

Write on an index card:

“Lord, cleanse my temple of _____ so that I may glorify You.”

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

The body of Christ is God’s temple. Keep it holy.