Journey through Lent
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lower Elementary

Materials

- Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 7, 2021
- Handout B: Clean My Room
- Handout C: Spot the Differences

Learning Goals

In the Gospel for the third Sunday of Lent, Jesus drives out the merchants and money changers from the Temple. These people had reduced worshipping God to a commercial act, and even prevented some people from being able to worship God at all. In this lesson, students will consider ways they can renew and refresh their own spiritual life, and reflect on sacred art.

Gospel Reflection

Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then, discuss the focus questions with them as a class. Share the background information with your students before discussing the focus questions.

Activity

A. Have students read the information on Handout B: Clean My Room (or read it aloud as they follow along). Then, have your students answer the questions, or discuss them together as a class.

B. Have students complete the Handout C: Spot the Differences activity. Tell your students to compare the two versions of the painting Casting Out Money Changers by Carl Bloch and find 9 differences between the two images. Have them circle the differences.
Answer Key

Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 7, 2021

1. People selling animals (oxen, sheep, and doves) and money changers.

2. He made a whip out of cords and drove the people selling animals (along with their animals) out of the Temple area, spilled the money of the money changers, and overturned their tables.

3. “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

4. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” Jesus was really talking about His own body and His Death and Resurrection on the third day.

5. Jesus saw that worship of God in the Temple, the main and most holy house of worship for the Jewish people, had become irreverent and commercialized. The actions of the sellers and moneychangers in the Temple area did not lead people to true worship, and, in fact, prevented those who could not pay from worshipping God. Jesus’ actions were justifiable. His anger at the situation prompted Him to act justly by cleaning out the Temple area so that the people could worship God as they were meant to. Accept other reasoned answers. Be sure to make it clear that Jesus was not acting sinfully in this Gospel story, and that His anger was righteous and justified.

Handout C: Spot the Differences

![Spot the Differences Image]