

Letters from Jerusalem



Jesus
Cleans
the
Temple

Week 2
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Letters from Jerusalem

Week Two Overview

Color of the Week - White (wear this color this week)

Family Devotion - Jesus Clears the Temple
(Matthew 21:12-17)

Bible Memory Verse - Matthew 21:13

Bible Story Art - Draw a picture of the story of Jesus clearing the temple of the money changers

Family Craft - House of Prayer

Family Activity - Cleaning Party

Family Letters - Write a Letter to a Sick Friend

Family Snack - Peeps S'mores



Family Devotion

Matthew 21:12-17

Dear Family,

Well, it seems that things got a little bit more interesting after our arrival to the great city of Jerusalem...

When we got there, Jesus went straight to the temple. He loves the temple. He loves teaching others about God and we all love learning something about Him every day. But what Jesus saw when He arrived at the temple made Him very angry. None of us had ever seen Jesus get angry the way He did at the temple today. It was crazy!

When we arrived in the temple courts, Jesus found many people who were buying and selling there. They were selling things like doves...animals that people could use for sacrifices in the temple. And He also found money changers who were exchanging money for others (so they could buy things) who were not from Jerusalem but had come to celebrate the Passover.

And then Jesus blew up! He flipped the tables! He yelled for them to get out! He told them they were turning His house of prayer into a den of robbers. Money went flying everywhere. Doves and other animals were flying everywhere. It was a crazy scene! We were all shocked and couldn't believe what we were seeing. We had never seen Jesus act this way before!

Once all of that was out of the temple, Jesus began healing. The blind and the lame came to the temple and sought out Jesus. And He healed them. I really love watching Jesus heal people. It's so amazing how someone comes to Him...not being able to see...then He heals them, and now they can see. Wow...I am always in awe every time I see Him heal someone.

But there are certain people that cannot stand what Jesus does....and they are the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They cannot wrap their heads around the miracles He performs.



Family Devotion

Matthew 21:12-17

They become so angry anytime Jesus does something. I really don't understand why. Jesus is the Son of God. Why can't they see that and be excited about all that Jesus says and does? I hope they don't cause any trouble for Jesus while we are in Jerusalem celebrating the Passover this week.

It's been quite a day already. So much has happened. Thankful for the time I get to spend with Jesus as He is teaching me so much about God.

I'll write more later.

I love and miss you all

Andrew



Bible Memory Verse

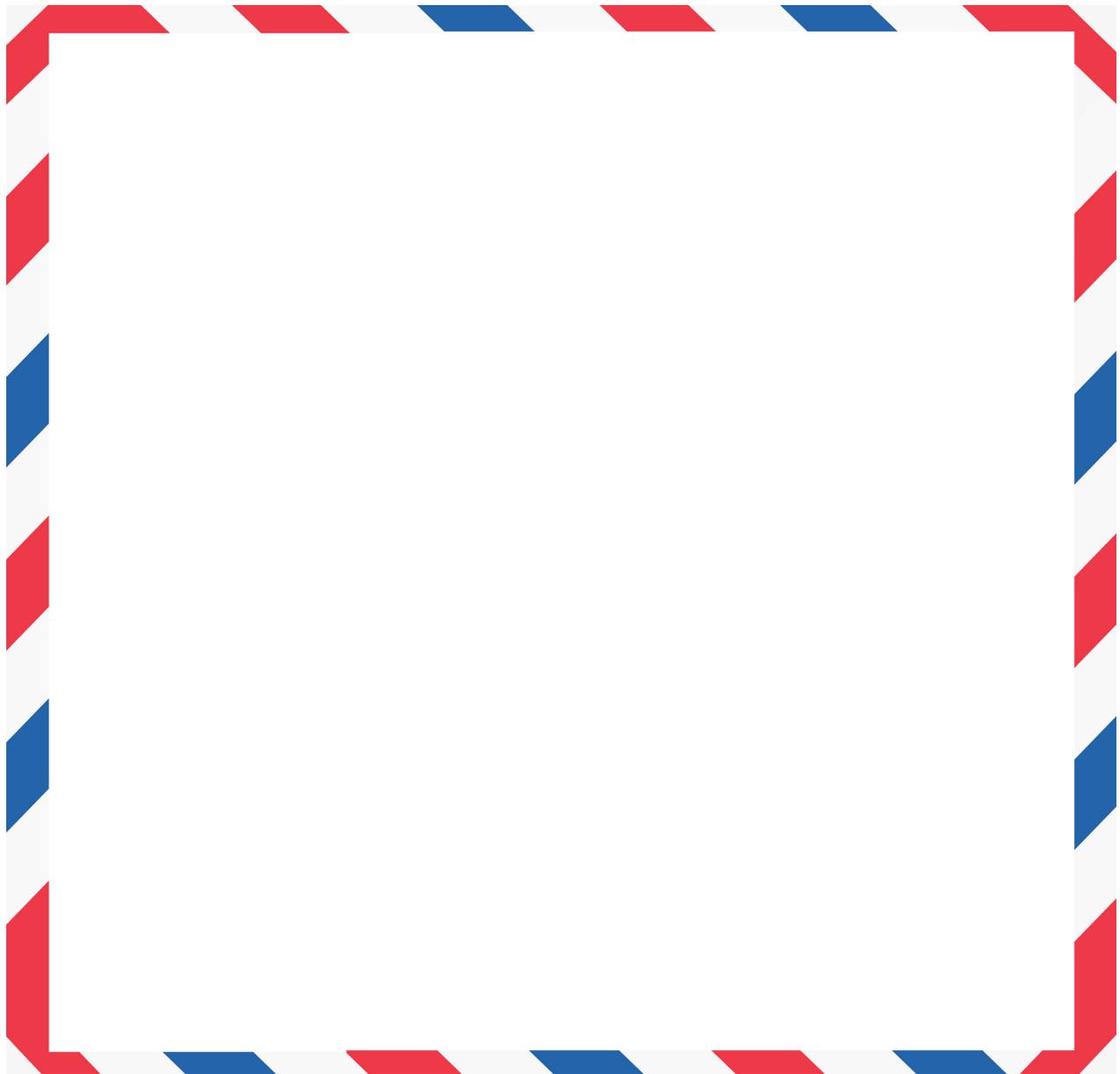
Hang this page on your fridge this week to help you memorize this verse.

**"My house will
be called a
house of prayer,
but you are
making it a den
of robbers."
Matthew 21:13**



Bible Story Art

In the space below, draw a picture of the story of Jesus clearing the temple of all the money changers.





Family Craft

House of Prayer

Supplies Needed: paper, markers

The temple was known to be a house of prayer, but people had defiled that by changing money inside the temple and selling items to sacrifice. Jesus brought the temple back to what it was supposed to be...a house of prayer.

Let's remember to make the house we live in a house of prayer by continually praying together as a family. In this activity, you will be creating a map of the inside of your home and then you will use that map as you pray in every room of your house.

First, on a sheet of paper, draw a layout of your house. If you have more than one floor, you can use multiple sheets of paper (one sheet per floor of your home). Make boxes large enough for you to write in. You will label each room: living room, kitchen, bedroom, etc.

As a family, decide on a word that you would like to write in each room. This would be the one thing you would pray for over that room. For example, for the living room you could write the word "peace" and then pray and ask God to bring His peace to that room as you gather as a family. Another example, for the kitchen, you could write the word "thanks" and as you pray, ask God to always make each of you thankful for what He's given you as you are in the kitchen cooking and eating together as a family.

***If you need an example of what to do, you will find a house layout with words on the following page.*

After you have finished creating the map of your house, gather as a family in each room and pray that word you wrote over each room in your home. And don't just do this once, but continually pray through your home as a family each week.

Clean

Bathroom

Safety

Garage

Rest

Bedroom

Thanks

Kitchen

Peace

Living Room

Creativity

Office



Family Activity

Cleaning Party

Supplies Needed: *cleaning supplies*

Jesus cleaned the temple of all the money changers and brought it back to what it's meant to be. So how about you have a little fun and get the whole family to help clean the house!

I can just hear the grumbles from the kids...cleaning the house...no fun! But you can make it fun! Here are a few ideas for a fun cleaning party:

- Turn on music the kids love and jam out to some fun songs while you clean.
- Make it a competition. See who can clean the best in the fastest amount of time.
- Set a timer to see if they can clean their room in a certain amount of time.
- Offer incentives to kids if they clean. Maybe something like dinner at their favorite restaurant, special dessert treat, or a whole week with no chores.

After the cleaning party, thank your family for helping and remind them of the Bible story this week of Jesus cleaning the temple and helping it be what it is supposed to be.



Family Letters

Letter to a Sick Friend

Supplies Needed: stationery, envelope, pen, stamp

Each week your family will write letters to people to encourage them in their faith!

This week write a letter to someone you know that is sick. Maybe someone who has COVID-19, cancer, or is in the hospital. Let them know you are praying for God to heal them.

Then drop the letter in the mail!



Family Snack

Peeps S'mores

Supplies Needed: *package of Peeps marshmallows (use birds, not bunnies), Hershey chocolate bars, graham crackers*

This snack will remind kids of this week's story of Jesus driving out the money changers in the temple. The Peeps birds will remind them of the doves that went flying everywhere when Jesus overturned the tables.

If the weather is beautiful, build a fire outside (you can use the grill as a fire pit if you need to. Or if it's too cold, place Peeps on a cookie sheet and melt in oven).

Give each child a Peeps marshmallow and a roasting stick. Have them roast the Peeps marshmallow over the fire. Take two graham crackers, place half a Hershey chocolate bar and the roasted Peeps marshmallow in between the two graham crackers. Smash down and eat the gooey, yummy Peeps s'more!