JESUS CLEARED THE TEMPLE



Text Truth: Church is a place to pray and worship.

Bible Verse: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. Isaiah 56:7

Bible Verse Paraphrase: God's house will be a house of prayer.

Isaiah 56:7

MARK 11:15-19

Jesus had been traveling and teaching the disciples and other people about why God sent Him. Jesus had been healing people.

After many days, Jesus and the disciples went back to Jerusalem. Jesus walked to the temple as He often did when He was in Jerusalem.

Many people were in Jerusalem preparing for the Passover festival, a special time of worship. Merchants had set up tables to exchange money and they had built many pens to hold animals. The city was noisy and crowded with all the people and animals.

As Jesus made His way to the temple, He saw the crowds. Jesus looked toward the temple courtyard and saw the merchants busy at their work. The courtyard looked like a stockyard or a huge market instead of a place to worship God!

Jesus was angry. People needed to be able to go to the temple, purchase their animals, and enter the places where they could worship God and give praise to Him. Jesus did not like that the merchants and their tables crowded the paths and walkways to the temple! No one could even get near the temple entrance.

Jesus walked through the temple courtyard and told the merchants to get out! Jesus turned over the tables of the moneychangers. Jesus tossed the chairs out of the way.

Jesus said: "Don't you remember what Isaiah wrote? God's house will be a place of prayer for everyone! But you people have turned the temple into a market!"

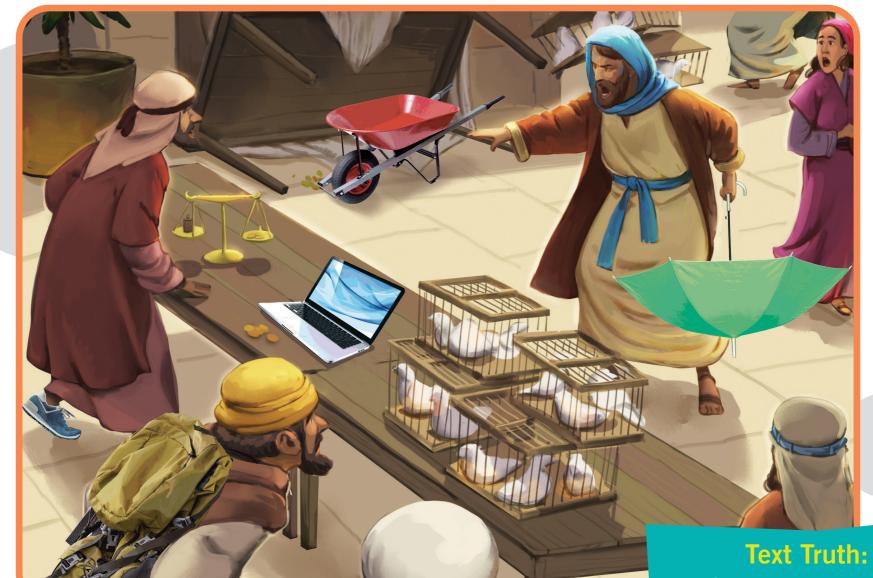
The crowd of people were astonished when they heard Jesus say this.

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God's house will be a house of prayer. Isaiah 56:7

Put an "X" on the (5) things that don't belong.



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