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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for March 3, 2024*

*Third Sunday of Lent*

*Lectionary Year B*

**Scripture:** [John 2:13-22](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Clears Out The Temple* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

**ASK** (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Let's talk about something that's a little bit gross.
- Have you ever had a cold or had allergies where your nose was all stuffed up and you had to breathe through your mouth? (yes!)
- Do you like that – being all stuffed up? (no!)
- So...what do you do to "unstuff" your nose? (blow my nose! take medicine!)
- Why do you do take medicine AND blow your nose? (gotta do whatever helps, do whatever makes things better)
- Does someone else, usually a parent, give you medicine to take? (yes)
- And at least in the past, maybe when you were younger, would a parent help you blow your nose by putting a tissue to your nose and telling you to blow your nose? (Yes, but maybe you were so young, you don't remember)
- So when a parent gave you medicine and helped you blow your nose, that person was helping you get your breathing all cleared up, right?

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- Thank you for talking about gross stuff with me. I think it will help us think about today's scripture story.
- In today's scripture story, Jesus is starting his life's work (which we might call his "ministry").
- What Jesus did during his ministry was teach people how to better pay attention to God.

- Jesus also shared God's healing love with the people around him.
- One way to think about what Jesus did, then, is to say that Jesus helped clear things up.
- Jesus helped clear up people's confusion about God and Jesus helped people's sicknesses get cleared up.
- And, in today's scripture story, we hear about another area that Jesus helped clear up.
- That place was the Temple.
- There were all these things in the Temple that were stuffing it up, that were keeping the people from being able to pay attention to God – so Jesus went and cleared it out.
- It's sort of like Jesus held up a tissue to the Temple and said, "Temple, you are TOO STUFFED UP! You need to blow your nose!"

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Sometimes, our lives get stuffed up, just like the Temple got stuffed up.
- And when that happens, we have a harder time paying attention to God – just like when our noses are stuffed up and we have a hard time breathing.
- But today's story reminds us that when we invite Jesus into our lives, then Jesus can help us get our lives cleared up, just like he cleared out the Temple.
- This is one of the ways that Jesus helps us to better pay attention to God.
- That's the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who helps us clear up...**

**...who helps us clear up...**

**...our stuffed up lives...**

**...our stuffed up lives...**

**...so that we can...**

**...so that we can...**

**...pay better attention to you.**

**...pay better attention to you.**

**Thank you and Amen**