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 **Matthew 21:12-17**

**Combo**

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**Teachers Dig In**

**Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: Matthew 21:12-17
- In This Passage: Jesus walks into the Temple and sees people selling doves. This is causing a distraction from God in his special place, and Jesus gets mad. He turns over the tables of those selling and speaks out against what they're doing. He stands up for God.
- Bible Point: Jesus stands up for God...
- Application: ...so we stand up for God.
- Summary Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

**Dig Deeper**

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus stands up for God.* One distinction this lesson makes is that standing up for God isn't about judging what everyone is doing; it's about standing up when people do things *in God's name* that don't reflect him. Help kids know how to say something to other Christians when they are doing something in God's name that doesn't reflect God's heart.
- Think About: When have you seen other Christians poorly representing God's heart? When have *you* poorly represented God's heart?

**Dig In to Prayer**

- Ask God to give your kids wisdom to know when and how to stand up for him.

**Quick Tip**

- Jesus got mad because selling doves in the Temple was a distraction from God. Consider what elements of *your* environment pull kids' attention away from God. For example, if you have games for kids to play as they arrive, are they still in view when you start your lesson? Do you reward kids with candy or other prizes for bringing Bibles or memorizing verses? While these things may seem harmless at first, they direct kids' attention away from God at a time and place that's meant to be all about him.