

# 09 WAY MAKER

KEY TEXT: MARK 11:11-25

## CENTRAL truth

People have been getting in the way of those who want to worship God for as long as people have been trying to worship Him. When Jesus saw that the money changers and merchants were blocking the Gentiles from worship, He grew angry and began to throw them out of the temple. Jesus died to make our reconciliation with God possible, and He wants us to take advantage of that privilege. When we let Him, **Jesus restores our connection with God.**

## key question

**In what way did Jesus's actions in the temple display compassion?**

Jesus overturned the money changers' tables and shooed the merchants out of the temple because they were taking up the space where Gentiles were allowed to worship God. There was a limited amount of space, and the Gentiles couldn't really stand up to the Jews in their own house of worship. Jesus saw their helplessness and did for them what they could not do for themselves.

## keep in mind

- There's a big difference between human rage (which is reactionary and uncontrolled) and God's wrath (which is intentional and appropriate). Students might be put off by Jesus's behavior in this story because they think He's having temper tantrums. Remind them that Jesus only ever did and said what God told Him to do and say (see John 12:50; 14:31). He never acted on impulse. Jesus was sometimes angry, but His anger did not lead Him to sin (rebel against God). His anger was holy anger and represented God well.
- Students might think Jesus should have shown the religious leaders, merchants, and money changers more respect and just asked them to leave quietly. Point out that Jesus only ever openly opposed those who knowingly disobeyed, opposed, or rejected God (see John 9:41). He showed ignorant people grace and gave them every opportunity to realize their mistake and turn things around.

## application

**What actions can we take to make sure we don't stand in the way of people who want to worship God?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** God is not a distant God! He is near, involved, and faithful. Students need to know that if they put their faith in Jesus, they will remain connected to God forever. They can count on Jesus to help them protect that relationship.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Encourage students to let Jesus connect them with God and keep them connected. Explain how God has been closer and more involved with you than anyone else ever could be. Encourage students to help other people connect to God through faith in Jesus.