

Children's Message

Do you like to clean house? Most children like to help with housecleaning when they're too young to really be a help. Then—just ask your parents!—about the time they're old enough, they lose interest.

Let's see how good you are at pretending to clean. To do this you need a broom, a roll of paper towels, and some window cleaner, and an adult to help you.

Grown-ups, show the kids what it looks like when you sweep the floor. Can they do the same motions without the broom? Do the same with the window spray and paper towels. How do they do with making that circular motion? or is it up and down for them? Can they dust the furniture with another paper towel?

Kids, how do you know when it's time to clean the house?

- When your feet stick to the floor as you walk through the kitchen.
- When your mom or dad can't find you when they come into your room to wake you in the morning.
- When there are more dishes in the sink than in the cabinets.
- When you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.

In today's gospel, the story about Jesus, Jesus did some pretty spectacular house cleaning! It was time for a special Jewish holiday called the Passover, and a LOT of people were traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate. And since every family needed animals to offer as sacrifices in the temple, people were selling cattle and sheep and doves. The problem was, these people were from all parts of the land, and most of them didn't have the right coins—so the "money-changers" were *selling* them the coins they had to use, and they were charging them a fee for that! So when Jesus walked into the temple, it looked like a flea market, not a place to worship God.

Jesus was angry! He made a whip from some rope and chased the animals AND the men who were selling them out of the temple. He knocked over the money changers' tables. He was yelling something like, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market?!" Jesus did some serious house cleaning that day. -- Can you think of something else Jesus needs to clean up? (our hearts, our lives)