

WHO'S THAT?

Elementary
Week 1

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: John 2:13-24; Isaiah 61:1-2

Each week of this series tells a different story about Jesus, the Savior God promised in Isaiah 61. We see a Jesus who was angry about injustice. We meet a Jesus who healed a woman's broken heart. We see a Jesus that came to set us free from whatever holds us captive. And we see a Jesus powerful enough to defeat death and bring life everlasting. We see Isaiah's words from years ago become flesh in Jesus.

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor ...," Isaiah 61:1.

John 2 reveals a side of Jesus' character we don't think about very often. He was justifiably angry. The chief priests allowed a space that was meant to serve others to become something used for selfish profit. What was once holy had been cheapened to become commercial. In his tirade, one thing was clear: Jesus' purpose. He came to restore and redeem. The temple he walked into that day did not at all reflect what his Father's house was meant for, and he set it right. The temple, and anything that happened inside of it, was intended to bring good news to the poor, not to exploit them or shut them out. It was meant to be a space for people to worship, no matter if they were rich or poor – just people coming freely to worship the one, true God. Jesus came to restore the purpose of the temple to be just that, and in doing so, he made sure all people had a place to hear the good news (Isaiah 61:1).

In what ways have we made "church" something it was never meant to be?

In your own life, how do you elevate the poor and include the marginalized?

Jesus came to restore and redeem. How have you seen this personally?