



Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way

March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:18-25
Psalm 19 John 2:12-22

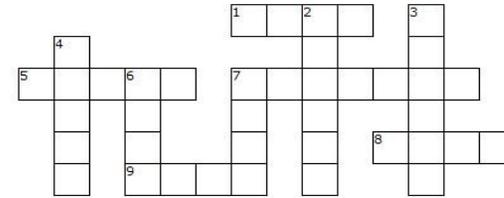
Hello friends! Let's talk about something that's a little bit gross. Have you ever had a cold or allergies and your nose got stuffy? Like full of snot and boogers gross stuff? Did you like it? NO!!! How did you “unstuff” your nose? Maybe your grown-up gave you medicine or you blew your nose with tissue? Did you know that when you were a baby, your grown-up had to help you with sucking the boogers out? EWWW! I'll bet it made you feel better though, didn't it? Thanks for talking with me about gross stuff.

In today's gospel lesson from John, Jesus is starting his life's work, his ministry. Through his ministry, Jesus shared God's healing love with those around him and taught people how to pay better attention to God. One way to think about what Jesus did, then, is to say that Jesus helped clear things up. One place where he did that was the Temple (Church). 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!" See, the Temple, like our church buildings was supposed to be for worship and there were some folks around town who used it as a store. They had the wrong idea about God's house and Jesus certainly wasn't happy about it.

Sometimes, our lives get 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. When we focus on God, Jesus helps us to “clear things up” and rids us of distractions. **adapted with permission from RFour.org**

Loving God, thank you for Jesus who helps clear up our stuffed lives so that we can focus on you. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The period between birth and death
5. The object upon which Jesus was crucified
7. To care about what you want without thinking of others
8. To refuse to allow yourself something
9. To no longer have something because it has been taken away

DOWN

2. To be guided by someone else; to go behind
3. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles
4. A large number of people gathered together
6. The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies
7. To keep someone or something safe from harm

FOLLOW	CROWD	SELFISH	LIFE	SOUL
GOSPEL	LOSE	SAVE	CROSS	DENY

Activity: This week as a family, choose one room to declutter together. Put away, give away, or throw away things that are in the way of you focusing on family time.

Discussion Question: What gets in the way of you focusing on God? What is your biggest distraction?

March Family Table Prayer: God, you bless us every day. You give us strength for work and play. Bless this meal and our family, too Lord, we love and worship You.

Memory Verse: John 3:16 -God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have life forever.

