

Experience Easter with families

Part one

Week three: Turning the tables

Coming together:

Make a pile of receipts and coins on the table plus some bananas and/or chocolate. (If you have a toy shop in your home you might like to use that instead.)

Use same prayer action as week one.



One minute story:

Jesus and his followers walked into the temple entrance. It was full of noise. It was full of money. It should have been full of prayers. It should have been full of God's love. So Jesus became angry. He told the people there to start treating the temple as God's house.



Story:

Who likes the idea of making things? Who likes the idea of selling things? Who likes the idea of buying things? Sometimes all three things happen together and it's good. Sometimes all three things happen together and it's not good.

It might be the wrong place. It might be that the people who make things are being cheated – or cheating. It might be that the people who sell things are being cheated – or cheating. It might be that the people buying things are being cheated – or cheating.

This story is about when Jesus became very, very angry.

It was the wrong place. The disciples and Jesus went into the temple full of joy. But when Jesus heard all the noise and saw all the cheating the joy turned to anger. All over the temple, God's house, people were buying and selling. Prices were very, very high. Poor people were handing over money so they could worship God. And it was all happening in the wrong place. Jesus went to one of the tables and tipped it over.

Then another... and another. Then he said in a firm voice:

"This is God's house. You are turning it into a den of robbers and thieves."

It was shocking. It was worrying. And it made some people very, very angry with Jesus.

After this they began to make plans to get rid of him.

Think about why Jesus became so angry. Perhaps it was because people were being cheated. Perhaps it was because the poor were being charged to worship God. Perhaps it was because all this was happening in God's house.

In Lent we often try to think differently about the world. One of the things we think about is how things are made, sold and bought. We try to make sure people are not being cheated. That's why we buy bananas that are fairly-traded. But we also think about the ways in which God's house is still not right: for example, some people don't feel welcome. Encourage ideas.

To do: Chop the banana up and give everyone a share or make fruit skewers together.

To find: Take a small pile of coins and place on number three on 'The Journey'.

To pray: As a family make a body sculpture in the shape of a church. Then pray together for your own church, that it will be truly be God's house.

Option: Encourage everyone to find out more about fair trade through the internet.