

Together @ Home

Sunday 14th March 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Jesus clearing the temple.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 2 v 13–22

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Exodus 20 v 1-17

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus clearing the temple. Thank you God that you care about justice.

Help us to stand up for what is right and speak out when we see things that are not fair.

Show us the areas where we need to stand up for fairness and justice in our world today. Help us to make our churches places of justice and righteousness.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus was angry with the people in the temple?

It was usual for people to bring a sacrifice when they visited the temple, just like Jesus' parents brought an offering when they presented him there as a baby. Jesus was angry because the people in the temple were charging extra high prices to the people visiting the temple. Jerusalem was under Roman Rule and so the money used by everybody was a Roman coin, but to enter the temple, people needed to pay half a shekel, a Jewish coin. Moneylenders in the temples would exchange Roman coins for shekels but would add their own charges. People were making money from those who had come to the temple to worship God.

A question for children to ask adults

What are some of the things that you see in the world which are wrong and which make you feel angry?

Family Activity 1



The coins that people would have paid to enter the temple in Jesus' time looked like this. What symbols can you see on the coins?

Why not compare them with the coins that we use today. Use crayons or pencils and paper to do some rubbings. You could use coins or other objects under your paper to make a picture.



A verse to remember

1 Corinthians 3:16

**Don't you know that you are God's temple
and that God's Spirit lives in you?**

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: a game that you can all play together

Play a game together, it could be a board game you enjoy or any fun game that everybody can understand and play. Before you begin, think about what makes the game fair and makes sure that everybody has an equal chance of winning. If one person has an advantage or disadvantage is there something you can do to 'level the playing field'?



Encourage everybody to celebrate, whoever wins – this is easier when you know that you had an equal chance of winning.

Active Prayer

Jesus saw injustice and people behaving dishonestly and was moved to do something about it. We can seek a change where we see injustice in our own world.

Why not find a newspaper or use an electronic device to see what is in the news today. Where you find injustice or things that make you hurt or upset write your own new prayer headlines, praying for the change you would like to see.



Helping older children

The world is full of hurting and angry people at the moment crying out for Justice. You could use this story as a starting point for a conversation about Justice. Our God is a God of Justice – and God's love, mercy and provision are for all. He hears our cries, our prayers, and our thirst for Justice in this time as well.

Just as Jesus saw injustice and wrong behavior and took action, we too have a role to play in seeking justice in our world today.

Check it Out!

This YouTube video is a fun way to see today's Bible story!



<https://video.link/w/j7Dac>

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



PUZZLE SHEET

How many half shekels can you find on the page?



Can you find all these words from the story in the word search?

Jesus
Passover
Jerusalem
temple
cattle
dove
pigeon
sheep
money

Join the dots to show one of the things that was being sold in the Temple Courts.

q z n u y d g z k a h j m t w
k y g m z q f t q p b e o t v
x g u n s a f t a s p s n z m
w k g l w y p s i u b u e k k
y x h c a d s b l n x s y v j
p h a x g o e c w g k e l i z
i a c f v v t e g h s q e i y
j r w e o p i g e o n h z t z
i s r d l c u a k m w i e y z
r b w o i p b a d e z u w e o
j v b f x f m l a l v o c p p
m e l a s u r e j t y h t x n
x r r v w s w s t t c h j k q
a g a n c w h w c a e x i m k
a k u n w n a x q c h u r a c



What has each person brought as their offering?
Follow the lines to find out!

