

Under construction

John 2.13-22 Lent 3

Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple is a shocking act but seems nothing compared to what he says next. The Temple was believed to be a space where heaven touched earth, but Jesus speaks of destroying it and rebuilding it in three days. However, Jesus isn't speaking about the physical Temple, but his body. Jesus signals that his death and resurrection makes the whole world into the Temple of God.

This week we explore what we need and don't need to be church.

Prepare your children's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

As people thought the Temple was needed to worship God, so we often have fixed ideas of what is needed to 'be' the church. What does 'church' mean for you? What do we need, to be church? What don't we need, to be church?

During this session, encourage the children to think of the church as the body of people gathered to worship Jesus rather than the building it meets in.

Provide the following play materials for very young children throughout the session: play money and purses.

For Fairtrade fortnight see [WEB](#).

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all links, templates and images. Extra ideas can be found on p.8.

Children's session

Gather

Use the song, prayer and activity to gather the group and introduce the theme. (5 mins)

♪ Sing to the tune: *Hickory dickory dock*

We have a friend we can trust,
who shows us that faith is a must.

When things get tough, and life feels rough,
walk even closer to God.

Invite everyone to take a building block. As they are named in the prayer, invite them to add their block to help build a wall.

Holy Spirit, help us all (*insert names*)

to learn how to be your church in this place. **Amen.**

Build a temple

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You will need: building blocks, e.g. wooden bricks or Lego™.

- Give the children a few minutes to design and build a temple, either individually or working together.
- Talk about what they have created. What do they think a temple is used for? What does a temple look like?

I remember that day really well. It was nearly **Passover.** ☼ The Temple courts were crowded. There were men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. The next thing we knew, Jesus was making a whip out of cords, and he began to drive the animals out of the Temple.



Cows and sheep were charging about, and doves were flying everywhere as he let them out of their cages. He scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He began shouting, 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace!' ☼

'As I look back now, I remember that the ancient prophets had written, 'Zeal for God's house will overwhelm me.' We could see it with our own eyes. And then the Jews there demanded of him, 'What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?' And Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it in three days.' They laughed. 'It's taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?!' But after the resurrection, the "three days" began to make sense! ☼

John 2.13-22

☼ See *Share the Word*.