

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 young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

What does it mean to be church in today's society? What things get in the way of that calling? How far are your young people enabled and empowered to be part of the body of Christ in your church?

Think about the young people you work with. Encourage them to consider their own marketplaces: What are the idols that get in the way?

For Fairtrade fortnight see [WEB](#).

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

GATHER

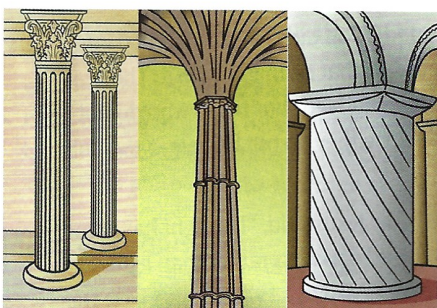
What do we need? 5 mins WE

You will need: Jenga™ game and a die.

- Play a game of Jenga™. As the young people take out a block and put it back in the pile, ask them to throw a die and then answer the question (see [WEB](#)) that corresponds with the number on the die.

First impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- In your church community what, or who, holds things together? ...is purely decorative? ...gets in the way?
- What type of pillar are you?
- If you are a 'community under construction', what needs constructing next?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Lent 3 Year B: Exodus 20.1-17;
Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25;
John 2.13-22.

Animal interruptions 5 mins WE

You will need: pieces of paper with different animals/noises written on them; a container.

- Invite one confident reader to read verses 13-16. Ask the rest of the group to select a piece of paper from the container. As the young person reads, invite the group to make their animal noises.
- Continue to build the noise until Jesus speaks at the end of verse 16. Discuss together why Jesus was so angry. Finish by reading the end of the passage together.

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

Building or body? 10 mins WES

Reflect on where we can pray/worship

You will need: pictures of religious buildings, e.g. churches, synagogues, and pictures of other buildings/places, e.g. shops, beaches, playgrounds.

- Ask the young people to put the pictures into two piles: 'church' and 'not church'.
- Play the track 'The Father's House', Cory Asbury on *To Love a Fool*, during this activity.

- Explore with the young people why they have placed the pictures in those particular categories. Discuss together if it matters where we are when we pray.

Film clip: *Silence* 10 mins WES

Explore what being the body of Christ means

You will need: DVD of (or clips from) *Silence* [15].

- Watch the trailer or clips (timings and links on [WEB](#)) and then discuss the following questions: Would you go to church if it put you in danger? How important is meeting with others of our faith? Do you find it easy or difficult to pray on your own? What does being the body of Christ mean?

Reflect on images 5 mins S

Think about our own place in the body of Christ

You will need: images of different pillars [WEB](#).

- Display the images of three pillars. Observe that some pillars help us by holding the building together, some add art and beauty, but sometimes pillars can get in the way and block our view.
- Play the track 'Where You Are', Jeremy Riddle, Bethel Music.
- Ask these questions and allow a short silence in between each one. What things in our church keep us together? We thank God for them. What are the beautiful things about church? We thank God for them. What are the things that get in the way of us seeing God more clearly? We ask God to change them. Finally, ask: What kind of pillar might you be?

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

- Play the game from *Gather* again, but this time, ask the questions about what you don't need.
- The young people can reflect individually in silence and ask God to help them to be the person he has called them to be.

Go with God 24/7

Choose one of the places from *Building or body?* where you feel able to pray/worship best, and spend some time there this week. **ESA**

As you finish, give out the **ROOTS at home** resource [WEB](#), to encourage faith at home.