

Sunday Club – 7th March 2021

The following is one way of delivering this session with children. This week we explore what we need and don't need to be church.

Opening activity - Build a temple

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

Give your child(ren) 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? Then / or watch this is a reconstruction of the Temple which helps put the story in context:

[Jerusalem Temple at the Time of Jesus - YouTube](#)

Opening prayer

Thank you, good God,
for all your good gifts
which help us to be
your church on earth.
Amen.

Open the Word: Open the Bible at John 2.13-22

- Give your child(ren) a role in the story: Jesus, animal traders, money-changers, onlookers, cows, sheep.
- Tell the story slowly, one line at a time, and encourage each person to act out what their character might have done at that moment. Encourage 'Jesus' to mime scattering the coins and chasing out the animals.

[John 2.13-22 ICB - But it was almost time for the Jewish - Bible Gateway](#)

or watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTQFNEb9Tkk> (apologies for the break in the middle.)

- Discuss the word Passover: a joyful festival for Jewish people which celebrates their escape from slavery in Egypt.
- Explain that the Temple was built by King Herod, started in 19 BC and not finished until AD 64.
- Talk about the link between raising the Temple in three days and Jesus being raised from the dead in three days.

Talk together:

- What places are very special to you?
- How would you feel if someone spoke about your special place being destroyed?
- What things in our lives do we need to 'clear out' to help us get closer to God?

Play a game about being church - Explore what is and isn't needed

- Tell your child(ren) that one end of the room represents 'needed', and the other end of the room represents 'not needed'. For each item you call out, every child should position themselves at either end of the room or somewhere in between depending on how important they think each thing you call out is to the church.
- Read out a list of things that could be associated with church, e.g. building, bells, singing songs/hymns, people, steeple, praying, stained-glass windows, the Bible, Sunday morning.
- If there are differences of opinion, encourage individuals to explain why they have chosen that position. Invite them to think about how we might be the sort of church that Jesus wants, e.g., welcoming, including everyone.

Craft Activity – Prayer weaving.

Think of things that you want to pray about this week, maybe it's the thought of going back to school, or seeing family again. Or maybe you want to say sorry for making other things more important than God. Write them on individual strips of paper. Weave them together to make a mat. Leave it on the fridge to remind you to pray throughout the week.



Praise Song: King of Kings, Majesty

[King of Kings, Majesty - YouTube](#)

Can be sung/read aloud or listened to

Closing Prayer:

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

Other ideas for family worship:

An alternative is provided by Hull minster (John 2.13-22)

<https://hullminster.org/family-resources>

Kid's Church (John 6) This is great fun and very interactive.

Beforehand, you can read the details which shows you the resources that will be required.

[Jesus meets the family 3 | High Energy Church Season 2 Episode 10 - YouTube](#)

Rochester Diocese Ministry at Home (John 2.13-22) Attachment