

Third Sunday in Lent



The
Children's
Illustrated
Bible
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Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem. He found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple. He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making God's house a marketplace!"

—John 2:13–16 adapted

Top Ten

Read Exodus 20:6. Remind kids of the Ten Commandments given to Moses (Exodus 20:1-17). On a chalkboard, make a list of the Ten Commandments during the discussion, adding Jesus' "Great Commandment." Play the Jumping Commandments game to remember the commandments.

It's Just Unjust

Share the story of Jesus cleansing the temple from the *The Children's Illustrated Bible* and John 2:13-16. In telling this story, emphasize that Jesus didn't hurt anyone but only overturned tables and chased the animals out of the temple. Compare to the Ten Commandments: Was Jesus trying to follow the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy? Was he upset that people weren't worshiping God in the temple? Was he upset that people were trying to make money from those coming to worship?

The market people in the temple were selling animals to be used for sacrifices or to "pay" the religious leaders for special blessings. Jesus knew that was wrong. No one should come between people and God. And God doesn't require sacrifices of animals or gifts of money to bless us. Justice means fairness. Start a circle prayer, inviting kids to pray to be humble and to be close to God.



Your Temple

Everyone has a favorite "temple"—a place where they go for peacefulness, beauty, thinking, or listening to music. Discuss with the kids where theirs is. Then discuss what would "hurt" your temple (litter, hunting animals, loud noise). What can you do to help keep your temple "holy"? How would you confront injustice in your temple?

Jumping Commandments

Two rope turners turn a rope for the jumpers. One turner calls out the commandment number and other kids take turns jumping in with the commandment:

Turner: One!

Kid: No other gods!

Turner: Two!

Kid: No idols!

Turner: Three!

Kid: Respect God's name

Turner: Four!

Kid: Keep Sunday Holy!

Turner: Five!

Kid: Obey mom and dad!

Turner: Six!

Kid: Don't hurt anyone!

Turner: Seven!

Kid: Love your spouse!

Turner: Eight!

Kid: Don't steal!

Turner: Nine!

Kid: Don't lie!

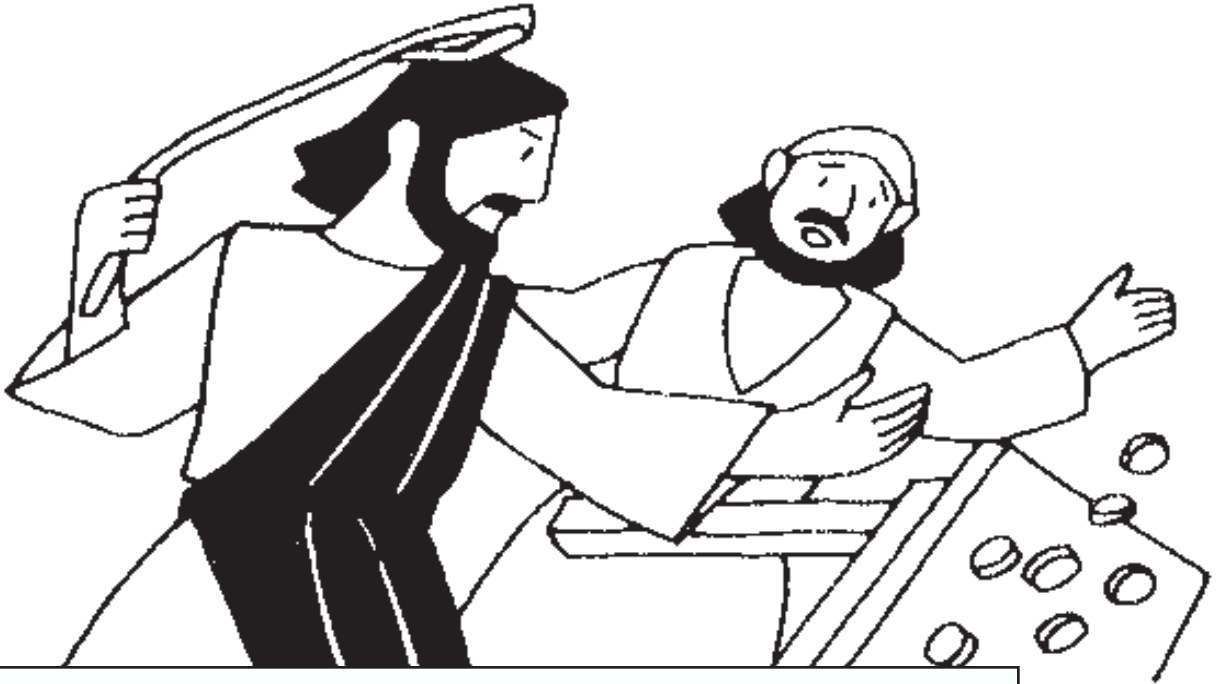
Turner: Ten!

Kid: Don't be greedy!

Turner: Jesus' commandment!

Kid: Love God first and love others as yourself!





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Draw a picture of your favorite temple. On your picture, write words that describe your temple.