

WE ARE TEMPLES OF GOD

VISUAL AIDS

- > A crucifix.
- > Toy animals (lambs especially) and pictures of animals.
- > People shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.
God loved the world so much
that he gave us his only Son.
Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.**

A reading from the Good News given to us by John.
Glory to you, Lord.

Just before Passover, Jesus went to the Temple in Jerusalem, where he found traders selling cattle, sheep and pigeons, and changing money. He took some cord, made a whip and chased them all out of the Temple with the animals, traders and money-changers. He knocked over the

DISCUSSION

What was happening in the Temple?
Why was Jesus angry?
So what did he do?
What did Jesus say he could do in three days?
- rebuild the Temple.
But what did Jesus really mean?
- that he would rise from the dead.

Jesus was saying he is the Temple of God.
We too are temples of God.

What is happening in our temples?
Are we full of sacrifices?
Or full of cheating?
Encourage the children to give good examples.

SHARING

Explain, as necessary, that in Jesus' time, animals and birds were offered in sacrifice at the Temple. A sacrifice is making a complete gift of something to God. Jesus offered sacrifice, but the sacrifice he offered was himself. There was a special section in the Temple, a bit like a market, where the people could buy animals or

birds for sacrifice. Some of the dealers cheated the people. In today's Gospel we hear what happened when Jesus came along . . .

and scattered all the money. 'Get out!' Jesus said, 'You have made my Father's house into a market!'

The Jews were astonished and asked Jesus 'Why did you do this?' Jesus told them 'Knock this Temple down, and in three days I will raise it up.' 'What!' they said. 'It took forty-six years to build - how could you do it in three days?'

They did not realise that Jesus was talking about himself; that he would rise three days after being put to death. After the resurrection Jesus' friends remembered all this.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children mime the Gospel.
- > Give out the people shape cut-outs.
- > On them have the children write or draw the sacrifice (the act of love) they want in their temple in the week ahead.

