

## Children's Church at Home 7 March 2021

**Craft:** card, scissors, Pritt stick or Sellotape, a tennis ball or similar, pens.

**First:** Here's a fun game. First, you need to make a list.

1. a name
2. a thing
3. a man's name
4. a number under 10
5. animal (plural, so sheep, pigeons, for instance)
6. a big number

Now be ready to say your word in the gaps:

One day 1. .... was going to the temple to make a sacrifice, which is something you give to God. It could be because you want to tell God you know how wonderful he is, or it could be to say sorry. And for 1. .... it was because he / she had done something wrong. He / she had taken 2. .... which belonged to someone else.

When 1. .... got to the temple, the priest, 3. .... said 'you must bring 4. .... 5. .... '. 1. .... was shocked! 4. .... 5. .... ! It seemed an awful lot.

So, 1. .... went to the market stalls in the temple. It was very noisy and quite smelly, because there were lots of people and animals there. First, he / she went to change his / her money from Roman money into Jewish money.

'Help!' he / she exclaimed! 'I didn't realise the exchange rate was so bad!' The money changer chuckled. He had taken a couple of extra denarii for himself. (A denarius was a day's wages!)

Next 1. .... went to the stall where they sold 5. .... .

'4. .... 5. .... please' he said. When he / she heard the price, 6. .... , his / her heart sank. 'That will be everything I have,' he / she said. 'could you possibly give me a small reduction?' 'Nope,' said the stall holder, 'This is the best price you'll get anywhere.

And you owe it to God, after all.' 'oh, ok,' said poor 1. .... with a sigh.

What do you think Jesus thought when he saw this?

And what do you think he did?

- a. bought an ice cream?
- b. changed some money and bought a dove as a sacrifice?
- c. something else?

Read the story and / or watch the video to find out.

**Story:** [John 2:13-22 ERV - Jesus at the Temple - It was almost - Bible Gateway](#)

or [John 2:13-22 TPT - But the time was close for the Jewish - Bible Gateway](#)

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/boNIL1owRAI>

**Think:** Oh, my goodness! Can you imagine coming home and finding a livestock market set up in your garden, sheep in the flower beds, goats on your trampoline and chickens in the kitchen? and cars parked all over the lawn?

Did you ever think that Jesus could be so fierce and violent?

He must have been so angry! After all, to him, the temple was his father's house.

Think about why 1. .... wanted to buy a sacrifice in the first place. God had given Moses instructions about sacrifices in the book called Leviticus, a long time before, but Jesus had new rules for us, didn't he? He said

Mark 11:25 Easy-to-Read Version

<sup>25</sup> When you are praying and you remember that you are angry with another person about something, forgive that person. Forgive them so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins."

So all we have to do is say sorry to God and sort out any problems with other people. We don't need to buy sacrifices!

There's another thing, and I've mentioned it before. Easter. Easter is when we celebrate Jesus coming back to life after he was killed on a cross.

When all this happened in the temple, he knew that it was nearly time for that, and he knew that **HE** was going to be the greatest sacrifice ever. God's sacrifice so that we could be sure that we would be forgiven. No messing about with changing money and buying animals any more. Just humankind and God. Back together again. Alleluia! (which is something like, 'hooray for God!')

**Activity:** try out your skittles. Be sure to roll the ball if you play indoors!

**Prayer:** Lord God, its easier to follow a set of rules than to think and pray to you. Help me to listen to you instead of blindly following rules like the people in the temple. Thank you for sacrificing Jesus your son so that we can be saved! Please take care of my family and friends. Lots of us are going back to school tomorrow. I pray for teachers and helpers, fun learning and happy times with friends again. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.