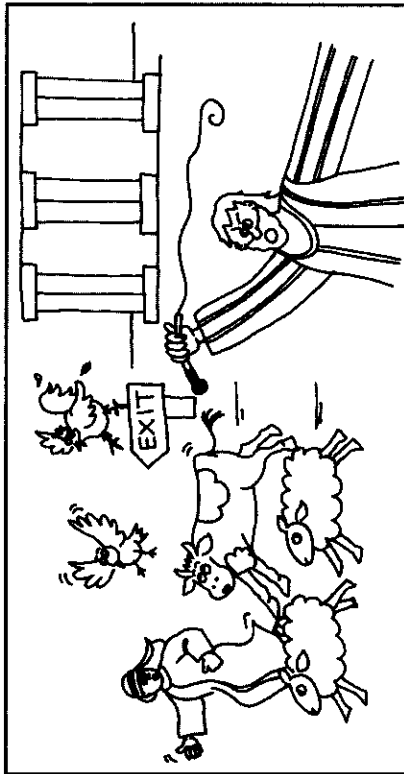
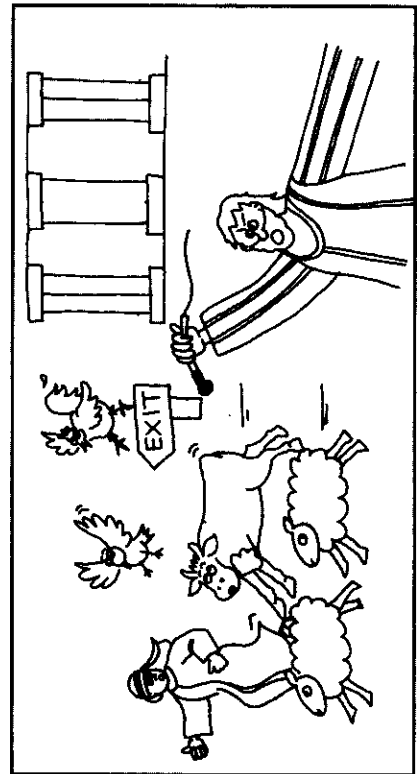


He drove the  
animals and traders  
out of the Temple.

How many differences can you find in the bottom picture?  
Circle the number



6 8 10 12



Jesus said...

Destroy this Temple,  
and in three days I will  
raise it up again.



JOHN 2:21

? Which Temple  
did Jesus mean?

Follow the instructions to find out

1. Change A to T
2. Change B to E
3. Change C to H
4. Change D to M
5. Change E to A
6. Change F to W
7. Change G to L
8. Change H to S
9. Change I to P
10. Change J to B
11. Change K to Y
12. Change L to O
13. Change M to I
14. Change N to D

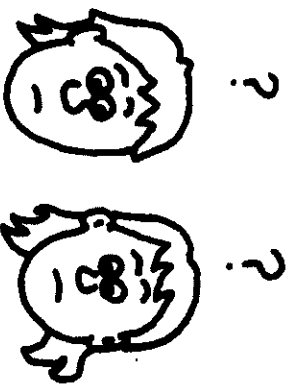
A C B A B D I G B

A C E A F E H

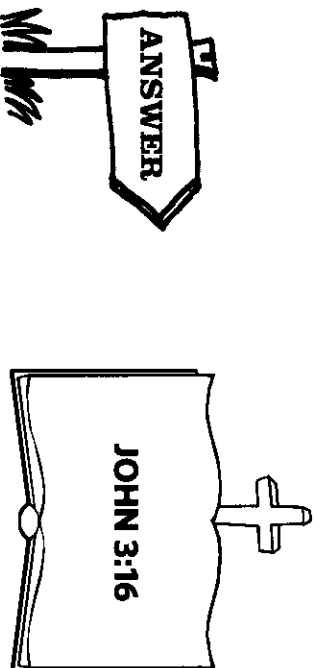
C M H

J L N K

**THINK and LOOK** ahead



When we believe  
in God what  
may we have?



**LIFE**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

# Anger in the Temple!

JOHN 2:13-25

Jesus was furious when he saw what  
was happening inside the Temple!

Write the **PREVIOUS** letter of the alphabet  
on each line to spell out his words

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A

S T U P Q U V S O J O H N Z  
,  
G B U I F S T  
I P V T F  
J O U P B  
N B S L F U !

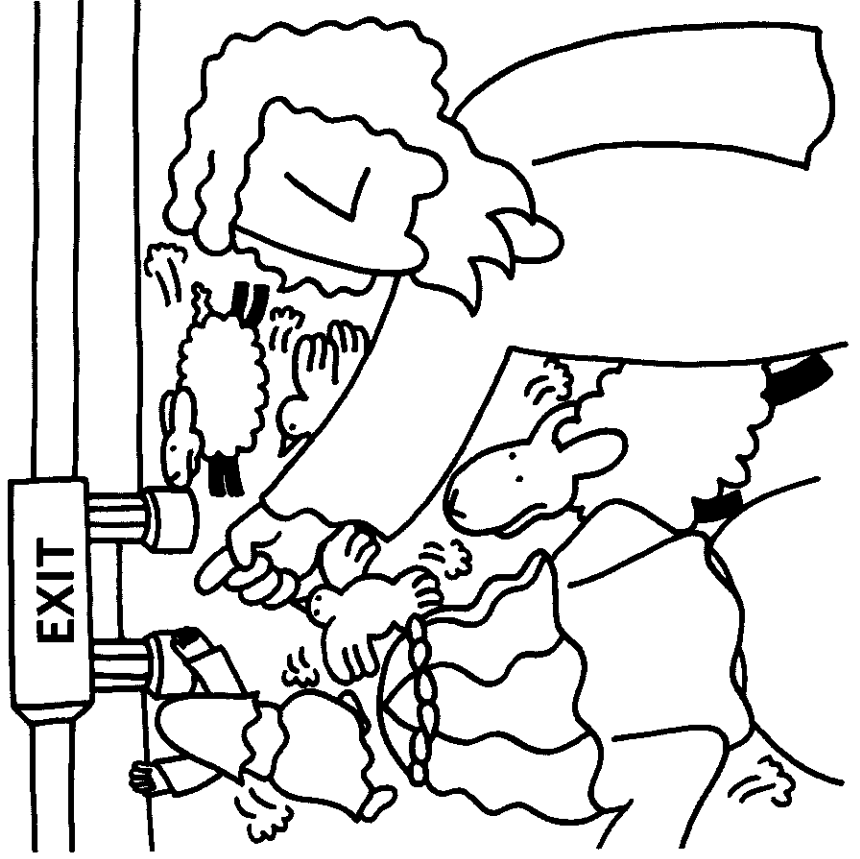


JOHN 2:16

Jesus was furious  
and drove them out  
of the Temple.

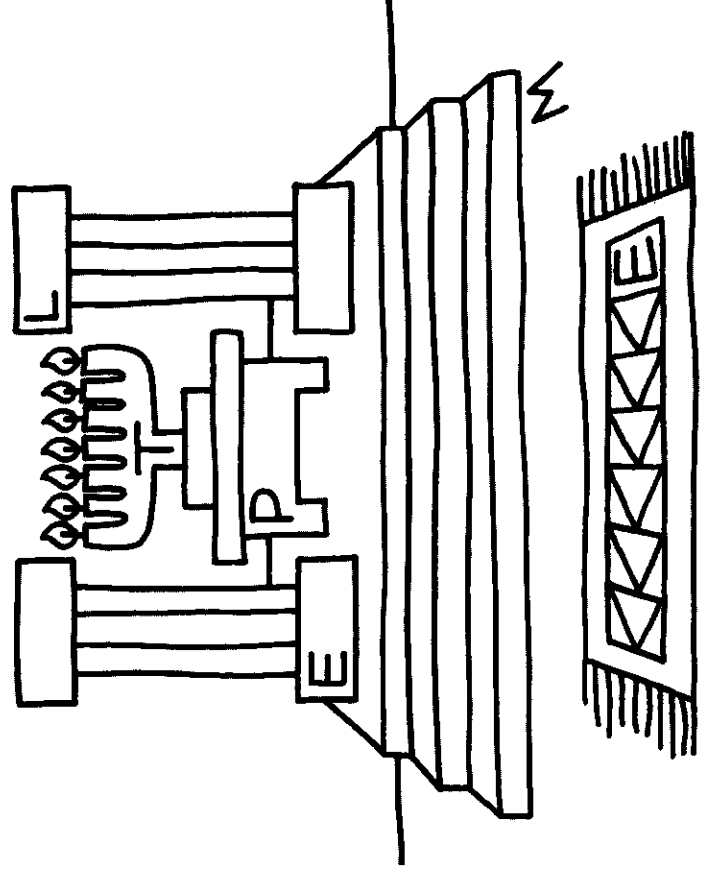
The Temple is a place  
to worship God and pray.

Give Jesus an angry face!



Find these letters in the picture

**T - E - M - P - L - E**



**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

*Who did God send to save us?*

Find the numbered words and read them in order

His<sup>1</sup>

only<sup>2</sup>

Son<sup>3</sup>

Jesus<sup>4</sup>



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

• STEP BY STEP •

## Anger in the Temple!

JOHN 2:13-25

The Temple was full of animals  
and lots of people were making money!

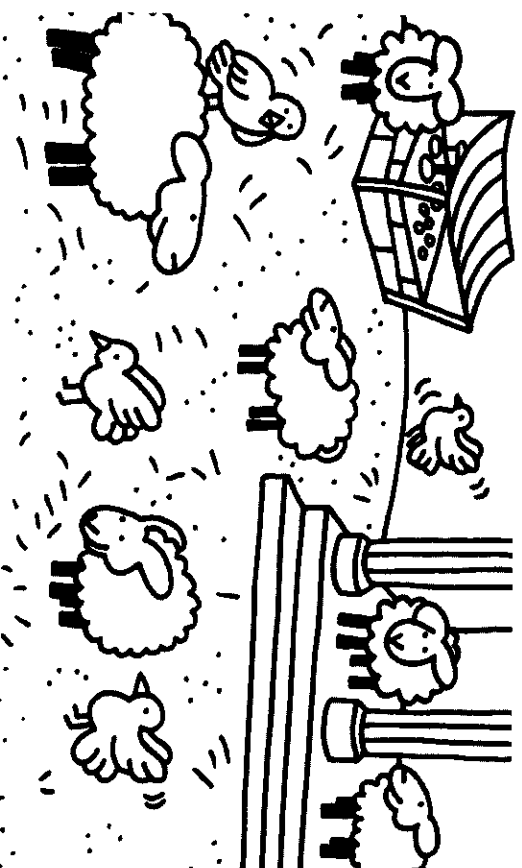
Find the



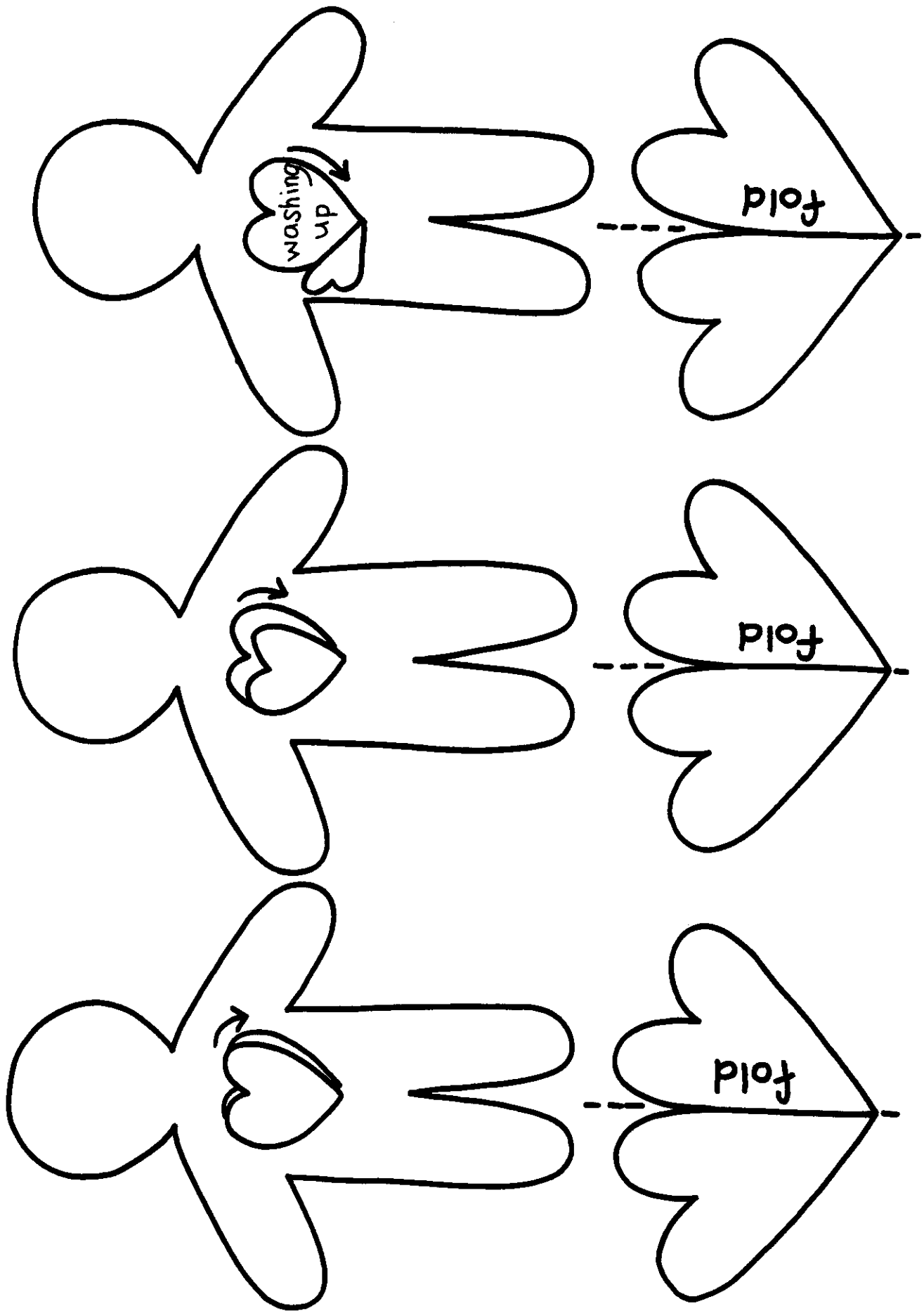
and the

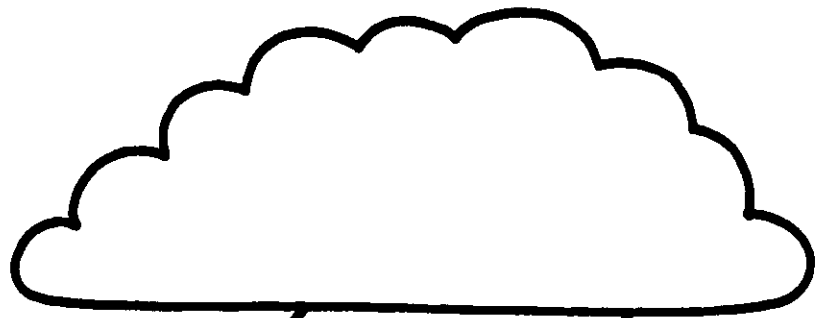


in the picture

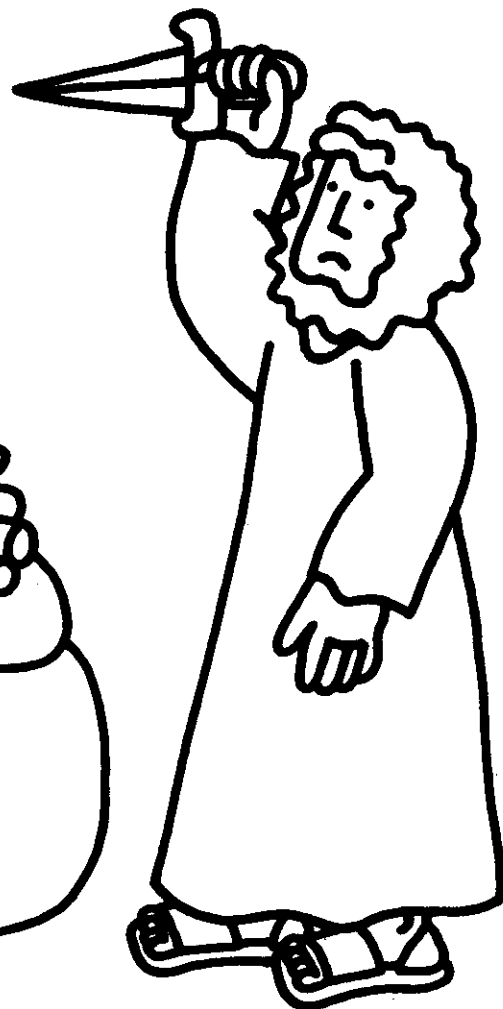
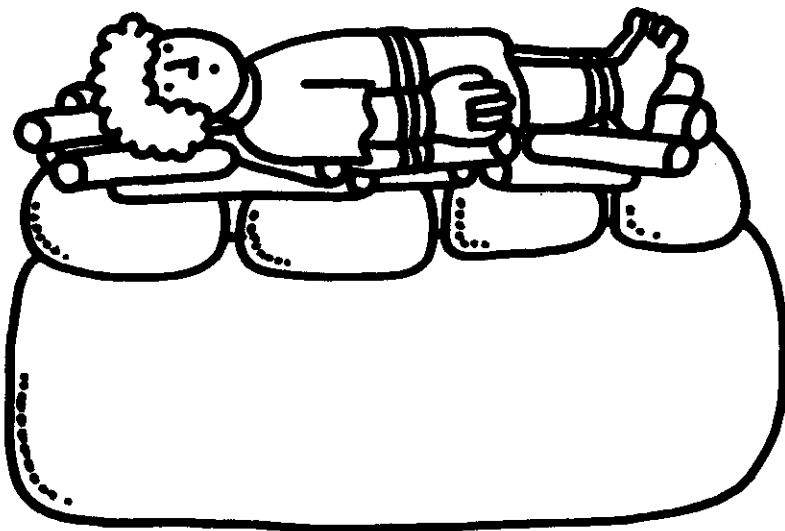


SECRET





Don't  
do it  
Abraham



## Third Sunday of Lent

### Anger in the temple

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, "My father's house is a house of prayer." So when he came to the temple in Jerusalem and saw how people had pushed God to one side and allowed money and business to become more important, he was very angry.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

#### SORRY

Let us close our eyes and speak quietly to Jesus, asking his forgiveness for any mistakes we have made or things we have done wrong. (Allow a few moments for quiet reflection.)

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

#### GOSPEL (JOHN 2:13-22)

Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. He found the temple in Jerusalem full of people selling animals, and among them sat the money changers. He was very angry and overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins everywhere.

He chased the animals and the merchants out of the temple shouting at them, "Take all of these things away and stop making my father's house into a market place!"

The temple priests tried to stop Jesus and asked, "What right do you have to act like this?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days."

"This temple took forty-six years to build! How could you rebuild it in three days?" they exclaimed. The temple which Jesus spoke of was his own body, and after his resurrection from the dead, his disciples would understand what Jesus had said that day.

#### DISCUSSION

The Jewish people gathered in the temple to pray and to offer sacrifices in God's honor. What did Jesus find in the temple?

Why do you think that the money changers and the animals were there? The animals were sold to those who wished to offer them as sacrifices to God. Ordinary money with the picture of Caesar on it could not be used in the temple. Instead, special temple coins were used to buy animals and to pay the temple taxes. The money changers' job was to exchange the Roman coins for the temple coins.

Jesus was angry because his father's house had become a market place, filled with people buying and selling, instead of being a place of prayer and respect.

Jesus told the people that if the temple was destroyed, he could rebuild it in three days. They thought that he spoke of the temple itself, which had taken forty-six years to build. But Jesus meant the temple of his own body, which would be destroyed by death on the cross but raised to life again after three days.

The house of God is a place of prayer where we can be close to God in a special way. When we visit someone else's home we are well-behaved and remember our manners, so, too, we should respect God's house when we go to church.

#### ACTIVITY

On a large sheet of paper, draw a temple background. Copy the animal and stall pictures enough times so that they can be cut out to make a busy temple scene. Add the angry figure of Jesus.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

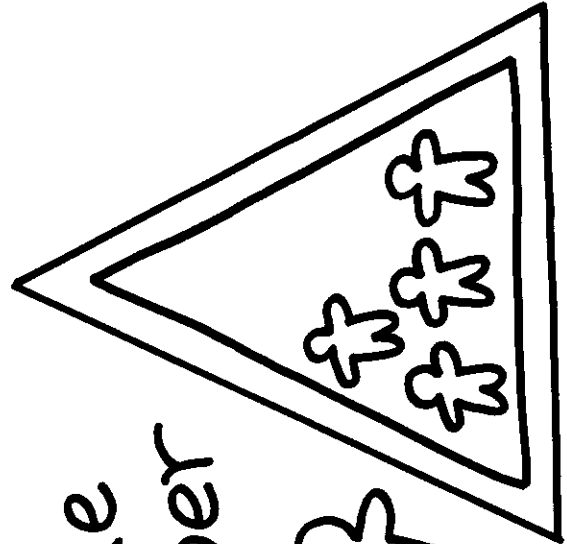
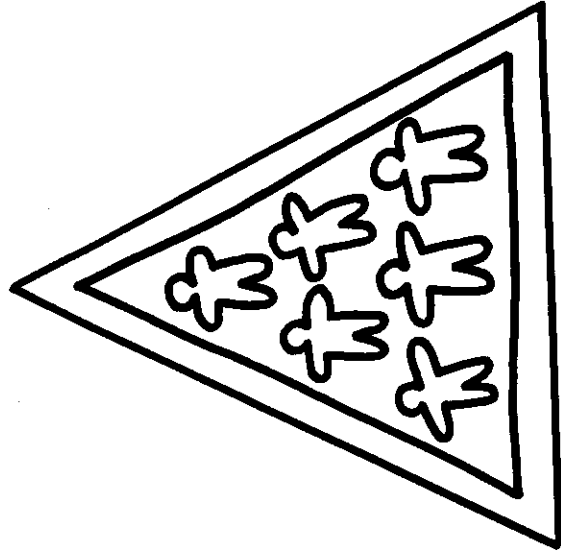
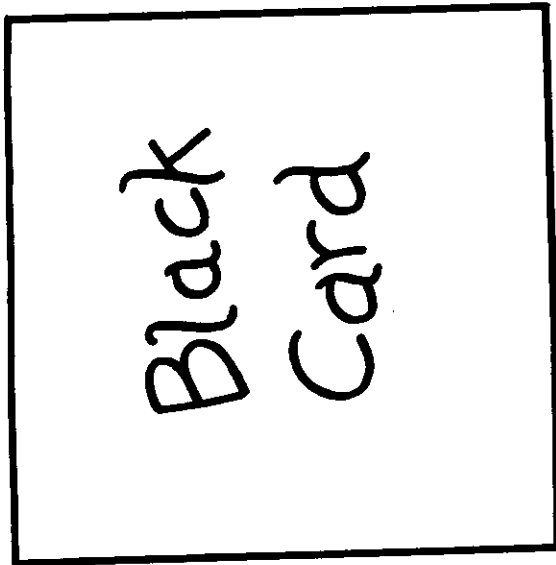
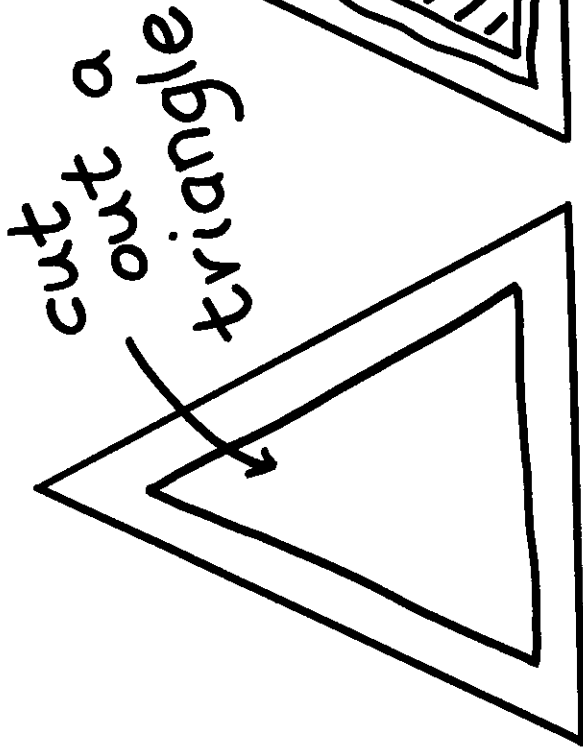
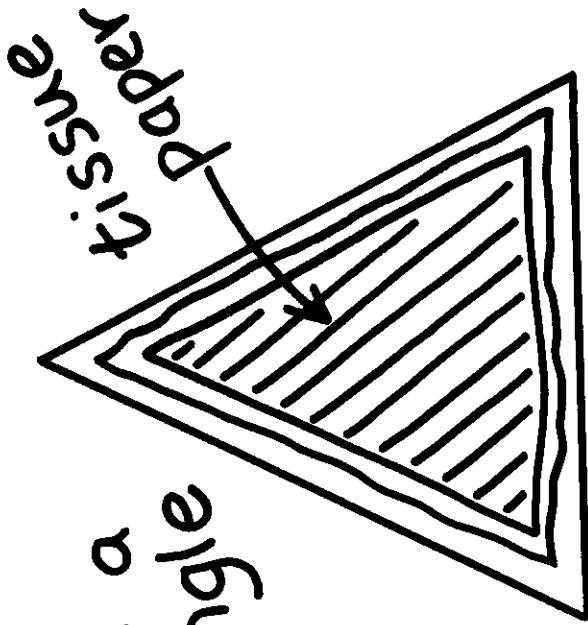
Let us pray for the family which has gathered here today in God's house to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

#### THINKING AHEAD

*(See discussion for the Fifth Sunday of Lent.)*

Sprinkle some seeds onto a piece of damp cotton or paper towel. Put the seeds in a light place and keep them damp. Tiny shoots will soon appear. Keep some of the dry seeds to show the children.





# Third Sunday of Lent

## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel reading, with coins scattered on and around it and a piece of twine or rope to represent a whip.

## Introduction

In the hearts and minds of the Jewish people, the Temple occupied a central place. It was a source of immense joy and comfort that there was in the heart of Israel, in the city of Jerusalem, a place where they could draw close to God. The Temple was God's house, the place where he promised that he would let his glory dwell.

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 8.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (2:13-25)  
(See page 379.)

## Reflection

*Why did people go to the Temple in Jerusalem?*

They went there to be close to God; to love, honour and give glory to him. The Temple was the holiest place for all Jews because God's presence there made it sacred. All faithful Jewish men were expected to attend at least one of the three annual pilgrimage feasts (Passover, Pentecost or Tabernacles).

*Which feast had Jesus gone to celebrate on this occasion?*

The Jewish festival of Passover is celebrated in memory of the Israelite people escaping from slavery in Egypt (see Exodus 14). About 200,000 pilgrims came to Jerusalem for this occasion, and the festival lasted for eight days.

*Why did Jesus find market stalls in such a holy place?*

People needed to buy animals and birds to offer for sacrifice according to the law, and the stallholders were there to provide suitable animals for the people to use in their worship of God.

*Why were money-changers sitting among them?*

Only 'Temple money' could be used inside the Temple to buy the animals and birds. The money-changers exchanged people's money for the special Temple coins.

*If these people were an everyday sight in the Temple, why did Jesus become so angry with them?*

Jesus saw into the hearts of the merchants and money-changers and knew that they were there because of their love of money, and not their love of God. They charged high prices for the animals they sold, and charged a high rate for exchanging the money that people could not do without. They were not there to help the people to worship God, but to take advantage of them and make themselves rich.

*How did Jesus express his frustration and anger with the money-changers?*

He made a whip and drove them out because their hearts were not giving glory to God. By chasing them

away Jesus 'cleansed' the Temple and made it holy and sacred again.

*What does this Gospel story tell us?*

God wants us to love and serve him with all our hearts and minds, and to recognise his holiness and sacredness in the world around us. Sometimes we become distracted by worldly things that lead us away from God's presence. Sometimes we are selfish and greedy, and do things for ourselves rather than for God. Lent is a time when we can take a look at our lives and see whether our hearts need to be 'cleansed', and whether what is important to us is important to God too.

*How could Jesus raise the Temple again in three days when it had taken 46 years to build?*

Jesus was talking about the temple of his own body. He is the new temple, where God is present and living among us. This temple was raised in glory after three days in the tomb, and is the place where human beings can draw close to the presence and glory of God. We too are temples of God because he is present and living within our hearts.

## Activity

Photocopy the template and cut out enough people figures to allow one each. Cut out small heart shapes from various colours of paper, and ask the children to write or draw acts of love or offerings they could make for God in the week ahead. Glue the hearts on to the figures to take home as a reminder.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for countries facing famine, flood, drought or any kind of disaster.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the homeless and refugees who have lost everything they own.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor and all who hunger for food or love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our world through understanding and forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts

let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,

let our lives give praise and glory to your holy name, and make us fit to be called your sons and daughters. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**