

Scene 2: In the temple

Bible

Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-46.

Aim

To show the children that Jesus was not afraid to upset people who were not following God's way. He was not a king who would be influenced by popularity, but would challenge the status quo if necessary. What sort of king is Jesus? He is a disturbing king!

Setting the scene

Following the entry into the city, Jesus visited the temple. The outer courts of the temple had become a market place for traders cashing in on the pilgrims visiting Jerusalem. There were people selling animals and birds, which would then be offered to God as a peace-offering, and moneychangers charging too much for people to exchange coins for temple money. The temple—God's house—had become a noisy place of dishonest trading rather than a quiet place of worship. Using the same space as before, the children are asked to play the part of the traders in the temple and enter into the drama of the event.

Character(s)

Storyteller (it is preferable for continuity if the storyteller is the same as before, although it is possible to use a second person if required)

Costume

None needed

Scenery

None needed

Props

Three large cardboard cartons, about 1m high to act as stalls for the traders. (*These are easily obtained from office suppliers and can be strengthened with parcel tape. They do not need to be decorated; they are simply representational.*)

Divide the children into three groups, each gathered around a cardboard carton. Each of these groups becomes some of the sellers in the marketplace of the temple. They each have their special 'group shout', such as:

- 'Sheep, sheep, two for the price of one!'
- 'Pigeons, pigeons, get your pigeons here!'
- 'Money, money, change your money now!' (or 'at our special rates!')

Invite the children to suggest some appropriate actions, such as scurrying feet when Jesus turns over the tables. The storyteller should build up the drama of this scene, by encouraging the children to shout out their wares, first one group, then adding the second and finally the third as the chorus of voices is added and grows louder. The leaders encourage their groups to shout out loudly above the other groups. The storyteller then acts as Jesus and ends the commotion by indicating for the children to stop shouting.

Storyteller: Stop! God's house should be a place of worship, but you have turned it into a place where robbers hide!

At this point the storyteller should (*carefully*) tip over the boxes and pretend to scatter each of the groups. He or she then asks the children to freeze in a moment of shock and surprise. The storyteller then uses the microphone again to interview the groups, asking what each thinks has happened? What do the children think of Jesus now? What sort of king do they think he is?