

Third Sunday of Lent – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Psalm 19](#) and [John 2:13-20](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/lentb3.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115883_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.sermons4kids.com/spring_cleaning.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent3kles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/3Lent-b/A-3Lent-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwmp.htm#lent03>

http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=304

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/217CleansingOfTemple.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Purple cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Psalm phrases from previous weeks
- Print up the following on a strip of white paper in large letters:
**“Everything we speak and everything we feel, may it be good for you,
O God our strength and redeemer”**

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Place the Psalm phrases from the previous weeks on the table. Have ready the Psalm fraction to place on the table after prayer. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**God be with us on the journey,
Jesus be with us as we learn,
Holy Spirit be with us as we grow. Amen.**

Hold up the Psalm fraction for the children. Read it to them or have a reader in the group do it. Explain that each week during this season they will get a new psalm piece to add to the worship table.

Place the Psalm fraction on the table. Blow out the candle. Pretend to get really angry with something (but not at the children). Don't let it go on for too long. Explain to the children that you are not really angry and were just pretending. Ask the children what they thought when they saw you getting angry. (*Wait for their responses.*) In today's story the children will hear about a time that Jesus got very angry with something he knew was wrong.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story – around a table or on the floor with cushions
- Coins, small toy animals – sheep, goats, small toy people

Instructions

Choose one of the toy people and designate it as Jesus. Place the animals on one part of the table and the coins on another part of the table. Place the toy people in various places on the table.

It was time to go up to Jerusalem. It was an important festival for God's people.

Jesus and his friends went with the others to the temple. They wanted to go and worship God at this special time. They were all very happy to be going there.

Move the toy person Jesus and the others as if travelling.

They got into the temple. Jesus was very surprised by what he saw. There were people there dealing in money. That made Jesus angry!
There were people selling animals. That made Jesus angry!

Move the toy person Jesus over to the coins.

Move it over to the animals

Jesus took up a whip. He drove out all the people dealing in money.

Sweep the coins off the table.

Jesus drove out all the people selling animals. Jesus yelled at everybody, "Take these things out of here! Remember that this is God's house! It is not a place to sell things! It is a place to worship God!"

Sweep the toy animals off the table.

Group all the toy people around the toy person Jesus.

The leaders in the temple were shocked by what Jesus was doing. How dare he do this! They came to him and asked, "What gives you the right to do this? Do you know where you are?"

Jesus answered them in a way that they didn't completely understand. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The leaders and the others standing around looked at Jesus and wondered if he had lost his mind. One of them said, "What are you talking about? This temple has taken almost 50 years to build and it isn't even finished yet."

The leaders didn't know what to make of what Jesus said. It all seemed very confusing. Jesus' friends and followers didn't know what to make of what Jesus said either. They were very confused.

It was only later that after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead that Jesus' friends and followers remembered and understood what had happened. They figured out that Jesus was talking about his own body as a temple. A temple that would be killed on the cross and then raised up by God three days later.

Have the children help you to clean up the toys and the coins. While they are doing that take time to answer any questions that they might have about this story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Poster: ‘Words of My Mouth’

The idea of Jesus doing a violent act can be hard for the children to hear and understand. A way to get at that understanding is to create a poster that focuses on the words and actions of Jesus.

Materials needed

- large piece of poster board
- magazines
- scissors
- glue
- markers

Instructions

Print ‘Words of My Mouth’ in the middle of the poster board. Have the children look through the magazines and choose images that represent the good things that God would like us to have come out of our mouths and the good actions that God would like to see us do. As they are cutting out the images to put on the poster talk with them about how the actions and words of Jesus would have been acceptable to God because he was reminding the people that God’s temple needs to be a place of worship first. Work with the children to place the images they have cut out on the poster to create a visual picture to share with the larger congregation. Place it where others can see it.

Project Idea 2: Free Art

A story like today’s can be hard to process for the children, it is often hard for adults to process. One way to help with this is to have an unstructured art activity where the children can respond as they like.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors, glue, glitter
- stickers
- pipe cleaners
- markers
- crayons
- tissue paper
- yarn
- ribbons
- card stock
- felt
- fabric pieces and anything else that might be used to decorate the badges

Instructions

Lay out the craft materials in an attractive manner. Invite the children to think about the story they have just participated in. When they are ready encourage them to create a response to the story. As they are working remind them that Jesus felt all kinds of emotions when going to Jerusalem and came into the temple. When they are finished have the children share with each other their creations and what they mean. Invite them to share them with their families at home.

Project Idea 3: Pretzels

Active praying is something that we all need to do from time to time. With the pretzels the children will be reminded that during Lent, especially, prayer is important for all of us especially when faced with the injustices of this world.

Materials needed

- pretzel recipe at end of lesson (check the ingredient list)
- a stove (at least one element and the oven)
- baking pans, parchment paper, oven, slotted spoon, oven mitts, large bowl, wooden spoon, measuring cups and spoons, large pan, slotted spoon

Instructions

This will take extra time than a normal response activity. Follow the recipe. You may want to start with this response and tell the story during the time that the pretzels are in the oven, in order to save some time. You may also want to prepare the pretzels far ahead and setting them to rise before the children arrive and then move into the rest of the lesson. As the pretzels are cooking, talk with the children about how the shape of the pretzel represents praying hands and have been a food for Lent for a long time. Enjoy the pretzels once they are cooled a bit or have the children to take home and share with their families.

You may visit [this page](#) on the history of pretzels.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Holy God, lead us to share your love with others,
Loving Jesus, lead us to be brave with others,
Holy Spirit, lead us to follow as children of God.
Amen.**

Pretzel Recipe

Ingredients

- 250 mL of warm water (1 cup)
- 15 mL of yeast (1 tablespoon)
- 5 mL of sugar (1 teaspoon)
- 750 mL of flour (3 cups)
plus about 60 mL (¼ cup) for kneading
- 3 mL of salt (½ teaspoon)
- 2 L of boiling water (8 cups)
- 1 egg white
- coarse salt (100-150 mL)



Instructions

Mix the sugar into the warm water in a large bowl. Sprinkle the yeast over and let stand for 10 minutes.

Stir in the flour. Turn the dough onto a clean counter and knead for 10 minutes with the extra flour. When the dough is firm and elastic, roll into a ball and cover with a bowl for 10 minutes.

Divide the dough into 12 equal parts. Shape each piece into a rope. The ends should be tapered and not as thick as the middle. Form into the pretzel shape by curving the rope into a horseshoe shape, twirling the ends and bringing them up to join the top part of the pretzel.

Let stand on floured board for 30 minutes.

Bring the water to boil and place the pretzels in the water, 2 or 3 at a time. Cook till they begin to puff (about 15 – 30 seconds) and then remove with slotted spoon to a baking pan.

Brush with egg white and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 200°C (400°F) for 20 minutes until golden brown. Enjoy!