Turning tables

John 2:13-22

I remember that day really well. It was nearly Passover ✱. The Temple courts were crowded. There were men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. The next thing we knew, Jesus was making a whip out of cords, and he began to drive the animals out of the Temple. Cows and sheep were charging about, and doves were flying everywhere as he let them out of their cages. He scattered the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. He began shouting, 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace!'

'As I look back now, I remember that the ancient prophets had written, 'Zeal for God's house will overwhelm me.' ✱ We could see it with our own eyes. And then the Jews there demanded of him, 'What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?' And Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it in three days.' They laughed. 'It's taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?!' But after the resurrection, the 'three days' began to make sense! ✱

See session outline on p.58

Stop & share

Read the story and pause at the ✱ to share these points with the children.

- ✱ Passover is an important Jewish festival, celebrating the Israelites escaping from slavery in Egypt.
- ✱ Zeal means 'passion or great energy'. These words come from Psalm 69:9.
- ✱ The Temple had taken many years to build, so people laughed when Jesus said he could rebuild it in three days. But Jesus did not mean the physical building, he was speaking of his death and resurrection.

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