

Third Sunday of Lent Cycle B: LESSON

Making the Connection Grades 4,5, and 6



Diocesan guideline	Purpose of this session
Scripture	
First Reading : Exodus 20:1-17	Exodus 20:1-17 Moses is given the Ten Commandments. Understanding the concept of Law in the Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm: 19	A prayer of praise to God who gives us his commandments
2nd Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:22-25	Paul preaches Christ crucified to the Corinthians.
Gospel Reading <u>John 2:13-25</u>	John 2:13-25 : Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

We can **experience God's presence any time and any place**. We gather to pray in our churches, however, because we believe that Christ is present there in a special way.

What are some places that we believe are holy?

(Churches, shrines, altars, the tabernacle) – where is the tabernacle in our church?

What makes a place holy? (A place is holy because we experience God's presence there.)

What do we do at holy places? (Worship God, gather for celebrations)

Just as we have important holy places where we gather to pray and to worship God, there was a special holy place for the Jewish people in Jerusalem when Jesus was alive.

This place was the Temple. It was first built by King Solomon to house the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments.

That first temple was destroyed in 587 B.C., long before Jesus was born. But a second temple was built in its place when the Jewish people were able to return to Jerusalem.

This is the Temple that Jesus knew, and it had recently been expanded under King Herod. But Jesus does an unusual thing at the Temple in today's Gospel. Let's listen carefully.

Invite one or more volunteers to read aloud today's Gospel, John 2:13-25.

What did Jesus do in today's Gospel? (He cleared out the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple.)

Why do you think that he did this? (He said that they were making the Temple look more like a marketplace.)

The merchants were selling animals to people who came to worship at the Temple.

The people offered the animals in sacrifice as part of their prayer.

The moneychangers were exchanging Roman coins for temple coins because the Roman coins were engraved with the image of the emperor, who said that he was like a god. These coins could not be used when making an offering at the Temple.



What was Jesus' response to the people who asked for a sign to show his authority to do this?

(Jesus said that he would destroy this Temple and raise it up in three days.)

What do the people say in response? (They said that such a feat would be impossible; they knew that it had taken 46 years to build the Temple.)

The Gospel tells us that Jesus' disciples would later have a different understanding about what he said.

What would the disciples understand Jesus to mean? (The disciples would understand this to be a reference to Jesus' death and Resurrection.)

When did the disciples begin to understand this? (only after Jesus' Resurrection)

The Gospel of John was written many years after Jesus' death and Resurrection.

The Romans had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, and the Jewish people could no longer worship there. This was a terrible and sad event for the Jewish people. But the Jewish people continued to worship God in their homes and in synagogues. In today's reading, we hear one way in which the Christian community tried to understand the destruction of the Temple.



As Christians, we experience God's presence in many ways.

We believe that the places where we gather as a community to pray - our churches- are holy. We also believe that Christ is present in a special way in the Eucharist, which is reserved in the tabernacle in our churches so that we can pray in Christ's presence.

Conclude in prayer together asking God to help us offer wholehearted praise and worship.
Pray together the Lord's Prayer.