

# Journeys in the Spirit



## Children

### Sheet 23.A

## Respond What would you do?

Clear a large space in the room and divide it into four squares. You can do this with tape, string, marking with chalk or simply by using sheets of paper on the floor numbered 1 to 4.

Choices scenarios:

A. *You are really looking forward to a school trip, but it is cancelled because of the actions of two children:*

1. Talk to the leader of the trip about another punishment
2. Help organise a 1-day strike for the class
3. Confront/ beat up the 2 students
4. Make a rude sign at the leader every time they turn their back

B. *A classmate is suspended from school for something you know they didn't do*

1. Protest with placards at the school gate
2. Ask to speak to the Headteacher
3. Carry on as normal
4. Meet with other, maybe older pupils, and try to find out the truth. Tell a teacher what you find out.

C. *In a shop you overhear a customer make a racist remark to a shop worker.*

1. Carry on shopping
2. Challenge the customer and ask them to apologise
3. Glare at the customer so s/he can see you
4. Talk to the shop assistant in a friendly way

D. *You see a recognised bully beating up someone you know outside your school:*

1. Dive in between the two and say break it up/ help your school friend
2. Walk home
3. Stand at a safe distance and shout "I'm watching you"
4. Call a teacher



# Journeys in the Spirit



## Children

### Sheet 23.B

## Respond What would you like to do?

Clear a large space in the room and divide it into four quadrants. You can do this by using four sheets of paper with one of the four words on and placing them in different parts of the room. If you have enough people, divide the group into four, perhaps by counting round 1 to 4 so that all the 1s go together etc, and assign them to each of the four areas. Otherwise assign people in 2's or 3's or even 1's.

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. Group</b>   | <b>2. Town</b>  |
| <b>3. Country</b> | <b>4. World</b> |

Ask each group or individual to think of something they believe is unfair and would like to change in the area they have been given – group, town, country or world. Try for groups of no less than three – you could ask for additional help from Meeting. Part of the purpose of this exercise is to encourage the idea of working together for change so if numbers are small you might focus on less than the four categories rather than reduce groups to singles or pairs.

Ask each group to agree on their issue or what they want to change and then to plan a group action that would help to bring about the change they wish to see. Explain that they will need to prepare to report back to the whole group and this can be in any way they would like, eg using drama, drawings, or spoken description. The reports back should include:

- the specific change they wish to see.
- what their action is.
- what they hope will happen as a result of their action.

Bring the group back together and ask the questions:

- I wonder what you felt when you decided on your action?
- I wonder what you felt was the most important part of what you have done?



# Journeys in the Spirit



## Children

### Sheet 23.C

## Respond Monica and Paul – stopping bombs

### A Story

Monica lived in Bristol and Paul in Birmingham. They are both Quakers. They were both feeling the same. Millions of other people were feeling this way too. The British government was copying the American government, and planning to invade a far-off country called Iraq. Monica and Paul did not want this to happen.

They knew that Iraq had lots of oil that the Americans wanted, and that Iraq's leader was a brutal man. They also knew that bombing and invading Iraq would mean that many thousands of ordinary Iraqi children, women and men would be killed. They believed it was wrong and felt in the core of their beings that this was not God's way. They wrote letters to the Prime Minister to try to persuade him to change his mind. They met their Members of Parliament to try to persuade them to vote against war. But they felt that everything they were saying was being disregarded. The powerful people had made up their minds.

Monica and Paul were frustrated by this and went to a large demonstration at Fairford, an airbase in England that had been given to the Americans. They held placards saying "No War" and "Not in My Name" and talked about their feelings of despair and anger. They wished they could do more to prevent the killing of Iraqi people.

As they talked, they looked through the wire fence and saw lots of huge B-52 aeroplanes, which would soon take off for Iraq and drop bombs on the capital city, Baghdad. It seemed to them that whilst they were outside with their placards, the business of war was carrying on as usual, completely unaffected. "There must be something more we can do" said Monica. "If only we could stop those bombers taking off", said Paul. They looked at each other, and that's when they started to plan their action.

One March evening, Monica and Paul went to the Fairford base again. A beautiful full moon lit their way as they took out their bolt cutters and cut through the fence. They climbed inside the base and made their way to the bomb compound, full of low loaders and trailers for taking the bombs to the aeroplanes. They damaged the trucks and trailers so they couldn't be driven and put signs on them that said "Out of Order" and "Do Not Use", so that no one would drive them and get injured.

Then they cut through another fence and entered the main airfield. They made their way to the fuel compound where they found three big fuel tankers, which would take the fuel to the aeroplanes. They climbed inside each of them in turn and damaged the controls so they could not be used.

"It's a shame we can't get to the aeroplanes", said Monica, "they're too well guarded". "But they can't take off without fuel and bombs", said Paul. "Even if it delays the bombing by an hour, at least it will give Iraqi people more time to escape Baghdad". Just then a long shadow fell and a young American soldier came round the corner. When he saw Monica and Paul, he looked horrified. But he kept his gun pointed to the ground and called for reinforcements – *continued on Sheet 23.D*

# Journeys in the Spirit



## Children

### Sheet 23.D

## Respond

### Monica and Paul's story continued



Monica and Paul did not resist arrest. "We wondered how long it would take you to discover that we were here", they said, "We were making so much noise damaging the trucks, we thought you'd come sooner". In court, Monica and Paul pleaded guilty to damage, which would cost £10,000 to repair. They admitted that they had taken the action, but said they believed they were helping to prevent war crime. Paul said to the judge and jury, "I did it to prevent the murder of innocent civilians". Monica said: "If we can help to prevent the murder of one civilian by what we have done, then the action will have been worthwhile".

They knew that they could be sentenced to 10 years in prison. The jury took 3 hours to decide. When they returned, the judge asked them for their verdict. The spokesperson for the jury stood and said "Guilty!"

The judge recognised that Paul and Monica had acted under "honestly held beliefs", but had broken the law. He gave Paul a conditional discharge and a fine to cover court costs. The judge told Monica that she had broken the law lots of times before on peace actions and told her she would have to stay in her home from 7pm to midnight, Tuesday to Saturdays, for six months. "Even if I'd gone to prison, I'd do it all again" said Paul. "I'd definitely do it again", said Monica.

Now ask the following wondering questions. Leave a good gap between questions and remembering not everyone has to speak. Say, 'I wonder:

- Which part of this story you liked the best?
- Which part of this story you think is most important?
- Which part of this story is in you or you are in?
- ...and, finally, which part of this story you could leave out and still have all the story you need?
- You could also ask, after a pause: Has anyone ever felt like breaking the rules because they felt so strongly about something?

After the wondering conversation everybody can move to use the art and craft materials to further explore the story they have heard in whatever way they choose.



# Journeys in the Spirit



## Children

### Sheet 23.E

## Respond Jesus and the moneychangers

The Jewish Temple when Jesus was alive was huge – even bigger than a cathedral (*has anybody been to a cathedral?*). The Temple had lots of enormous spaces and halls. The most special part of the Temple was the Holy of Holies – only priests went there. There were lots of rules about who could go where – some places men could go and women couldn't. Something else we need to know – in one part of the Temple there was something like a market – there was lots of money – it was like the Temple, or Church, had become a shop or supermarket. People bought things they needed to go into the Temple but other things were sold too. It was noisy and busy...

This enactment has been done successfully at Greenbelt, a Christian arts festival, and in other settings.

Prepare to enact the story. Say, 'we are going to hear about a time when Jesus took direct action.'

- First, read the text on *Sheet 23.E* about the 'Jewish Temple'.
- Pause and then read, or have a volunteer read, the quotation from Mark chapter 11:vs.15 – 18.
- Then say, 'we are going to make this story happen in our Meeting'.
- Get the group to organise itself into these four roles - Money changers, Chief priests, crowd and Jesus and the disciples. You could do this by simply counting round from 1 to 4, by asking for volunteers, or a lucky dip system that divides each group fairly equally. Brief each group as on the strips overleaf - give each group copies of their role card.
- If your children's meeting is small you will definitely need to do this as an all age or all meeting activity. You can just have a few people in each group.
- Decide where Jesus and his friends are walking into the Temple; decide which room is the Court of the Gentiles where the money changers are going to be – set out tables with cardboard boxes and money (pretend or real); decide which room or space is the Holy of Holies where the Priests will be and rush from. Talk a bit about whether tables are going to be turned over and, or, goods and money thrown about.
- Remind everybody, briefly, of the story. When everybody says they are ready begin the action. Jesus and his friends walk into the Court of the Gentiles; Jesus speaks or calls out and then.....
- Judge when to end the action. Everybody sits and says their own name – 'I am...'. Talk about what it was like acting it out – ask people how they feel and what they think now about the story. Any thoughts about our world now? End with a little stillness and quiet. Tidy up!

# Journeys in the Spirit

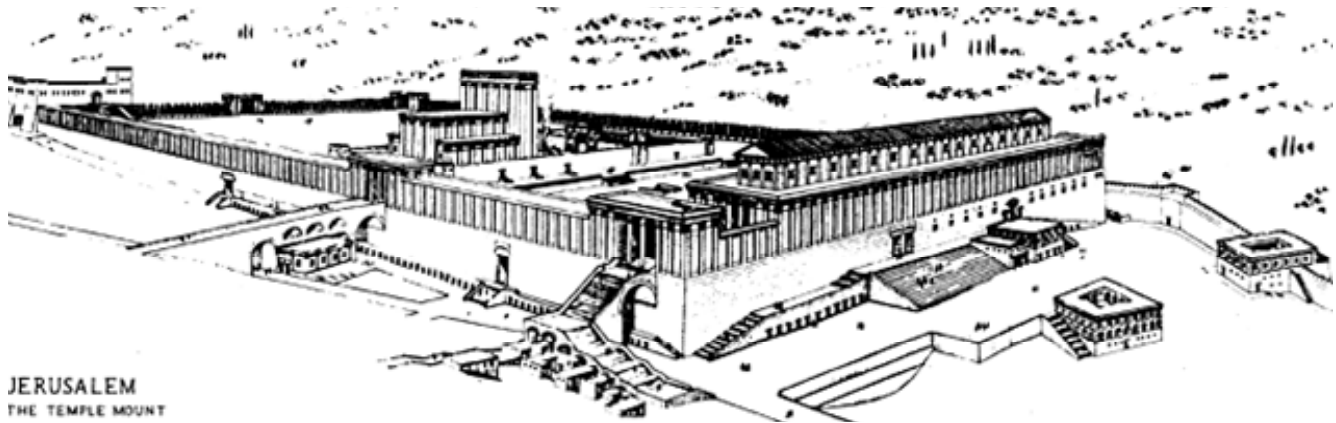


Children

Sheet 23.F

Respond

Jesus and the moneychangers continued



**Money changers:** The priests in the Temple authorities give you permission too work here. It's a good job- it pays lots of money. Everyone who comes to the Temple has to change their money into Temple money to buy things in the Temple. You change their money and keep some for yourself.

**Chief priests and scribes:** You are very important people. You are like Government Ministers and judges in our society. You are very powerful, in this Temple and the country. People do what you tell them to do you. You hear noise and commotion and rush out to the Court of the Gentiles to see what it is.

**Crowd:** You are the ordinary people who come to worship in the Temple. You are very poor because of taxes you have to pay the Roman army, and the taxes you have to pay the Temple and the money you pay to the traders before you can worship at the Temple. You see or hear somebody doing something about your poverty and the treatment of the Temple.

**Jesus and disciples:** This is your first visit to Jerusalem, the big city. The temple is huge. Until now Jesus worked and preached in the rural areas and built up a large following of people who are inspired by his healing acts, his message of God's love for them, of hope and liberation. These followers include faithful disciples, or close friends, that accompany him wherever he goes and help him in his work. Identify one of your group to be Jesus. Jesus becomes angry at the bad things happening in the Temple.