



# FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

**Week of January 16, 2022: John 2:13-22**

## Memory Verse

**John 2:16:** "He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!'"

## Family Prayer

**Morning Prayer:** I rise, I shine, I give you glory, God! For your love is better than everything. Help me love like you do today.

## Bedtime Blessing:

The time has come  
To close your sweet eyes  
To rest and dream  
Beneath star lit skies  
God is with you  
All through the night  
And even beyond  
The bright morning light

## Meal Prayer:

Thank you, God, for this great meal. Thank you for the planter, the grower, the harvester, the distributor, the seller, the deliverer, and the cooker. Amen. [then at meal time, ask everybody "what was the best part of your day?"]

## The Story: The BIG Question

First, if you have a children's Bible, read today's story. If you don't, go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and type in John 2:13-22 and choose the "New International Readers Version" (NIRV, rated at a 3rd grade level). Then read this poem:

If you want to know God,  
do you have to be great?  
Do you have to be special  
to be Jesus' mate?

If ever you wonder  
what Jesus might say,  
he might give an answer  
in this kinda way...



"You don't have to be rich,  
you don't have to have money,  
you don't have to be clever,  
you don't have to be funny..."

## Craft Corner

"Worship God" (age 6-12)

You will need: copies of the activity sheet, pens  
Some people in Jesus' time found themselves unable to worship God at their Temple because of the cost of having to offer up sacrifices to worship God. See if the children can come up with their own thoughts of things that might stop people from worshipping God today.

## Activity

"Cattle, Sheep and Doves"  
(age 3-5): You will need: images or toys of the animals mentioned in today's Bible passage (cattle, sheep, doves).

Ask the children:

- Do you know what each animal is?
- What noise does it make?
- Where does it live?
- Who looks after these types of animals?
- What animals are allowed in their church, if any?



You don't have to be tall,  
you don't have to be old,  
you don't need fancy clothes,  
or to wear rings of gold...

You don't have to be good,  
you don't have to be right,  
you don't have to be quiet,  
or nice and polite...

You don't have to come first,  
you don't have to win,  
you don't have to be gorgeous,  
you don't have to be thin...

You don't have to be tidy,  
you don't have to be clean,  
you don't have to be famous,  
you don't have to be seen...

You don't have to be the leader,  
you don't have to be cool,  
you don't have to do what you're told,  
you don't have to keep the rules...

You just have to be YOU,  
you can come as you are,  
you don't have to change anything,  
you're already a star!

You're already perfect,  
you're already fine,  
you're already brilliant  
and God says, 'You're mine!'"

The Point? Nothing disqualifies us from the love and grace and God. In today's Bible story, part of what Jesus is doing is calling out systems that exclude people. When money becomes required to worship, people are excluded. Jesus wants to break this down. This poem reminds us that nothing excludes us from Jesus' love, and makes him angry when people try to do so.

# Worship God

Can you think of reasons why people might not be able to worship God starting with each letter?

We have given you an example to start off with.

W Weather bad weather can put us off coming to church

O

R

S

H

I

P

G

O

D