

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- What has most changed about your view of Jesus during this series Marked?
 - How has this series most altered you?
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STUDY

This week we focus on Jesus as the New Temple and how that affects us, even our prayer life.

What did you hear in this week's sermon that was new about misconceptions of Jesus and his mission?

- 1. Mark 11:11-14 Jesus, Temple & Trees** a. What was the purpose of the temple? b. Why did he visit there first? c. What is the link between the fruitless fig tree and the temple? (typically we link this encounter to our personal fruit production). d. What kind of fruit does a church produce and how is that measured? What are signs of a withered church?
- 2. Mark 11: 15-19: Jesus in the Temple Courts-Not Mister Rogers.** a. What was so significant about the Temple Courts? b. Is your Jesus allowed to get angry-why and when? c. What makes you angry like Jesus? d. How does your anger differ from Jesus'? e. How has the church been an obstacle to seeing God? f. Has your Jesus tended to be too nice or too mean? g. Do you struggle with being a people pleaser?
- 3. Mark 11:20-25 Forgive so you can Pray** a. What is Jesus saying and not saying about prayer here? b. How do answered prayers affect your trust in God? Unanswered prayers? c. Specifically: How has the church or Christians hurt you? d. How does not forgiving prevent us from being forgiven? e. How do we tend to justify not forgiving others?
- 4. Takeaways**
 - a. **Is there something in the temple courts of my life that is an obstacle to others encountering the Lord through me?**

- b. **Is there something or someone I know that is broken, withered, or drifted far from the purposes of God?**
 - c. **Is there any forgiveness I need to extend in regard to a person/matter I have been praying about?**
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REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss "People see God through my behavior, words and how I treat them".
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PRAY

- Pray for each other's need to be as forgiving as God.
- Follow up on past prayer requests.
- Pray for the church to be fruitful in bringing people to Christ.