DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Zeal for His House

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 08 · November 1, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: Jesus clears out His Father's house and, when the leaders demand proof, promises one sign: His own resurrection. He is the true temple, the place we meet God.

Read together: John 2:13–25 · Psalm 69:9 · John 1:14. Memory verse: John 2:19.

Time: 20–25 minutes. Question 7 is the one that lands.

WARM UP

1. **Pastor Tom said everybody has a picture of Jesus in their head: gentle, holding a lamb, always smiling. Is that picture wrong?**
   Not wrong, just incomplete. This passage shows a side of Jesus most people leave out.

THE TEMPLE

2. **The outer Court of the Gentiles was the one place a non-Jew could come to pray, and at Passover it had become a market. Why would that make Jesus angry?**
   Sellers charged a premium for what was meant to be worship, and the business crowded out the nations' place of prayer.
3. **Jesus calls the temple "my Father's house." Why would that phrase get the religious leaders' attention?**
4. **The disciples remembered Psalm 69:9: "Zeal for your house will consume me." What is zeal? How is Jesus' anger different from the anger we usually feel?**
   Zeal is a consuming passion for God's honor. Jesus was angry for His Father, not for Himself.

THE SIGN

5. **The leaders asked, "What sign do you show us?" Basically: Prove it. Why did Jesus answer with a promise instead of a miracle on the spot?**
6. **Pastor Tom said Jesus was telling them "the temple was no longer the place to meet God. He was." What does that mean for how people come to God today?**
   Not through a building, a ritual, or a sacrifice you can buy. Through Jesus (John 1:14).

SO WHAT

7. **"Many believed in his name when they saw the signs," but Jesus "did not entrust himself to them." Pastor Tom said, "The question isn't whether you're impressed with Jesus. It's whether you believe Him." What's the difference? Which describes you right now?**
   Don't push for the right answer. Impressed is a reaction to what Jesus does. Belief is trust in who He is.

THIS WEEK

Memorize John 2:19, and tell one person this week why the resurrection is the reason you believe. Next week: Week 9 · You Must Be Born Again · John 3:1–15 · November 8, 2026