DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

Zeal for His House

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

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: At Passover, Jesus walks into the temple, finds a market in the Court of the Gentiles, and drives it out of "my Father's house." When the leaders demand, "Prove it," He promises one sign: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He meant His body. Jesus is the true temple, the place we meet God, and His resurrection proves it. The right response isn't being impressed; it is believing Him.

Read together: John 2:13–25 · Psalm 69:9 · Malachi 3:1 · John 1:14 · Matthew 26:59–61. Memory verse: John 2:19.

Time: 25–30 minutes. Let them wrestle with question 9. The goal is honesty about where their faith really is, not a right answer.

WARM UP

1. **Pastor Tom opened with the picture of Jesus most people carry: gentle, holding a lamb, always smiling. Why is that picture so popular? What gets lost if it is the only one we have?**
   Jesus is gentle. He is also the Son who walks into His Father's house and clears it out. Both are true.

THE MARKET

2. **Pilgrims needed animals to sacrifice and coins exchanged for the temple tax. Isn't that a helpful service? What was actually wrong with it?**
   Where and why. It was set up in the Court of the Gentiles, the nations' one place to pray, and sellers charged a premium for what was meant to be worship.
3. **Jesus says, "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade." Why does the word "my" matter?**
4. **Read Psalm 69:9. David wrote, "Zeal for your house has consumed me." John has it as "will consume me." Why might that shift matter?**
   MacArthur: the disciples feared Jesus' actions would bring the same persecution David faced. His zeal would lead Him to the cross.
5. **Read Malachi 3:1. How does Jesus' arrival at the temple fit what Malachi predicted?**

THE SIGN

6. **The leaders ask, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Why do you think Jesus didn't just perform a miracle on demand?**
7. **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Read Matthew 26:59–61. What happened to those words three years later? What does that say about hearing Jesus without understanding Him?**
   They heard His exact words, missed His meaning, and used them against Him at His trial.
8. **John says Jesus "was speaking about the temple of his body" (2:21). Connect that to 1:14 ("dwelt among us"). What does it mean that Jesus is the true temple?**
   The place where God dwells, and where people meet God, is now a Person, not a building.

SO WHAT

9. Many "believed in his name when they saw the signs," but Jesus "did not entrust himself to them." John uses the same Greek word (*pisteuō*) for both. Pastor Tom said, "The question isn't whether you're impressed with Jesus. It's whether you believe Him." Be honest: which describes your faith right now?

The disciples didn't fully get it either until He rose (2:22). Honesty is the starting point.

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