

The Gospel of John



Behold Him

John 2:13-25 | Group Guide

"Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"
- John 2:19

OBJECTIVE

Invite your group members into living in sync with God's kingdom. Help lead your group into deeper discipleship and love of Jesus. Ask for the Holy Spirit to shape your heart, and the hearts of those who attend your group.

Welcome and Ice-Breaker

For fun: would you rather be 1 hour early or 20 minutes late?

DISCUSSION

Teaching Text: John 2:13-25

Ask someone (or multiple people) to read the teaching text aloud and then ask someone to summarize the sermon.

Perceive

1. What are some key phrases or verses in the passage that stick out to you? Why?
2. What can we learn from this section of Scripture?

Ponder

1. The sermon traced the big story of Scripture and Temple imagery—from Genesis to Revelation—showing God's plan to restore the world back to an Edenic-like Garden-city where God dwells with humanity in fullness again. How does this big picture affect your view of God and the way you live out your faith?

2. Jesus' anger at the temple was directed at the barriers keeping people from freely worshipping God.
 - a) What barriers—spiritual, cultural, or even within the church—might keep people today from encountering God's presence?
 - b) What can we, as individuals or a community, do to remove those barriers?
3. Jesus cleansed the physical temple to restore its purpose as a place of worship.
 - a) If we are now God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19), what might "cleansing" look like in our own hearts?
 - b) What are some things Jesus might want to drive out of our lives so that we can worship him freely?
4. In verse 17, we see that the disciples recognize Jesus as fulfilling Psalm 69:9 - "Zeal for your house will consume me." What does righteous, godly zeal look like? Why was Jesus justified in his anger and zeal in this scene?
5. Why was Jesus' claim to be the temple so radical? What are the implications of this claim? How do we sometimes unintentionally re-build what Jesus was bringing to an end (ie. the old covenant/order vs. the new)?

PRAY & PRACTICE

Pray: as a group, pray that any worship-barriers you identified in question 2 might be removed within our church. Pray that we would have eyes to see where we are intentionally or unintentionally creating barriers as well.

Practice: this week, ask God to show you what "tables" in your life need turning over—what keeps you from undistracted communion with Him. Journal one thing you want to "clear out" this week (a habit, thought pattern, or distraction).

