



"Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, was the walking, talking Temple that navigated this earth, ridding it of evil and sin. Whereas only the purified and sinless could enter into the physical building of the Temple, Jesus was the Temple that purified and moved into the presence of sinful people. Jesus gave birth to a new form of worship, a new way of being cleansed, purified, and transformed into His likeness. Through His death and resurrection, He became the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the passageway to Him coming to live not only near us but within us."

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Share about a way God has been transforming your heart, making you more like Jesus, increasing your holiness. It doesn't have to be in huge ways, even small, incremental changes end up being very significant over time.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 2:18-22

"18 So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' 19 Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' 20 The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Flip through the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life. What language do you see that speaks to this Temple aspect to His character? In what ways does He clearly become what the Temple was or was supposed to be?
2. Now that you just flipped through and are familiar with the life of Jesus, in what ways is He superior to the former Temples?
3. Why would Jesus absolute claim that He was the New Temple be such an offensive statement to the Hebrew audience?
4. When the Jewish leaders spoke about the coming Messiah, what was He supposed to do? Was He supposed to replace the Temple? Restore the Temple?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. We tend to look at the Jewish Leaders from Jesus' day as the bad guys and we view ourselves more like the disciples or whomever we deem a "good guy" in the narrative of Jesus' life. In what ways are we in danger of holding similar views, of missing the Messiah (so to speak), in our modern age? How might we repent of these thoughts and actions?
2. Maintaining the reverence for our God as well as His approachability can be difficult. Which way do you tend to lean (seeing Him more as a close, intimate Father or seeing Him as an almighty King of the Universe)? How might we hold both of these realities in our hands as we relate to our God?
3. Jesus brought the Temple to the people of the world, not just Jews. When He touched the unclean, instead of becoming unclean, He made the unclean clean. In what ways did Jesus come into your life and make you clean?
4. How do we take seriously sin and yet still embrace our forgiveness in Jesus? Do you struggle with this? Which way do you lean? Toward grace or toward the seriousness of your sin?
5. How are you being cleansed or purified in your life?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.