



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of December 5, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. These are intended to help spark discussion. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What is something you should probably get rid of but haven't? What has prevented you?

The Context

Today, we finish out John Chapter 2. We go from the surprising and miraculous miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (verses 1-11), to seeing Jesus turn tables over in the temple courts. The scene opens up to one of the major holidays of Jewish tradition. It's Passover - It's the time when people make their way from all over the known world into the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the moment they were set free as slaves from Egypt. It's their Independence Day if you will. People would travel for days to make their way to the celebration. They would save up all year for this holiday. When someone came to worship at the temple during the passover they could bring their offering, or they would buy one. If you're not a farmer, and you don't know someone who raises sheep you would have to buy one. That wasn't the real problem. It was the scandalous way some people made money on this and took advantage of people. As a result, we get a powerful glimpse into the passion and zeal of Jesus for people that are being exploited, stolen from, and hindered from worshipping God in freedom. Let's dive a little deeper.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 2:13-24 NIV

"When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. 23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people."

Discuss

1. In this passage, what adjectives would you use to best describe Jesus as you see Him here?
2. Was it wrong to provide a service for buying sacrificial animals and exchanging currency for people who were from out of town? What was really going on that caused Jesus to react the way he did? What does this say about how Jesus thinks about us?
3. Dave shared Sunday that: *"Jesus flipping tables and you flipping out are two very different things."* How is this true? How is this challenging?

4. When you see people exploiting others, does it make you angry? When you see people preventing others from accessing God, does it make you angry? Why would God be angry about these things?
5. Can you think of any other instances of how Jesus reacted when He was mistreated or exploited? (See [Luke 23:32-43](#) and [Isaiah 53:4-7](#)) What can we learn from this?
6. How should Christians react when they are angered by injustice and persecution? Have someone read [Galatians 5:22-26](#). How can (should) our reactions be portraits and testimonies of Jesus?
7. Is it right for a Christian to get angry? Have someone read [Ephesians 4:26-27](#) and [James 1:19-20](#).
8. Tell about a time when you reacted because you were angry about something. Was your anger or your actions appropriate? Were they kind and helpful for others? Did they represent Jesus? Love?
9. What kinds of things do you get angry about? How do you react when angry?
10. What does Jesus say about where God now resides (the temple)? What does this mean for us?
11. For a Christian, where is the temple of God? Read [1 Corinthians 3:16](#) and [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#).
12. When Jesus cleanses the temple and redefines the temple, what message should we come to understand about the importance of the temple (our bodies) today?
13. Through Jesus you have access to God and He lives in us through the Spirit of God. Do you think most Christians live as though God lives in them and they have access to God? Why or why not?

Apply It at Home Challenge

If you feel led, feel free to discuss any of the questions below - or - You can dedicate some time in your group in prayer and silence to begin processing these questions, but also encourage everyone to process these one-on-one with God, or with a trusted and mature follower of Jesus.

14. What tables in my heart would Jesus flip? What sin in my life would he chase out?
15. What part of my soul needs to be cleansed?
16. What is one area of your life where Jesus needs to come and clear out some stuff that is getting in the way of worshipping and following Jesus?
17. What things anger me because they anger God? What things should anger me because they anger God?
18. What things anger me that do not anger God? How can I give those to God and realign my heart with His?

End Your Group Time in Prayer