

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

Week of February 19 – The Temple¹

Overview:

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some unlikely characters he met while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.²

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how the symbolism of the temple can help us better understand who Jesus is and how God interacts with his people.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We encounter the Father daily*—God the Father speaks to us through the Bible, and we commune with him through prayer.

Conversation Starters:

- What is the most beautiful or impactful building you have ever seen? What was it about the building that stood out to you?

Listening to God

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

- ***Read Exodus 25:1-22, 1 Kings 6:11-13, 2 Chronicles 7:11-22***
 - According to these passages, what was God's purpose for the tabernacle/temple?
 - What were the conditions of God's promises concerning the temple?
 - For more on the history of the temple see: Genesis 3:8-9; Exodus 26:30-35; Exodus 33:1-6, 12-17; 2 Samuel 7:1-13; 2 Chronicles 7:1-10; Ezra 3:8-13, 6:13-18

¹ This week's lesson was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry.

² For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to cccomaha.info.

- **Read Luke 2:41-49, 19:41-48, 21:5-9**
 - According to these passages, how did Jesus view the temple?
 - How was his view different than those around him?

- **Read John 1:14-18, Luke 23:44-49, 1 Peter 2:4-6, Revelation 21:22-25**
 - How do these passages transform our ideas about the temple?
 - How do the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus impact the use and purpose of the temple? Is this different from God's original purpose?
 - Where do you see parallels from the Old Testament references?

Leaning into Obedience:

- How does your understanding of the temple and your knowledge of Jesus affect your view of the local church (both the building and the people)?
- If we are temples of the Spirit of God in the world, how does that change how we live? How does it change how we interact with our community?
- What does it mean to be living stones? What responsibility do we have in the integrity of our spiritual house? Where must we rely on God?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
Do I live as a temple of God in my community?
- Option: Read 2 Chronicles 6:40-41 over your group.

Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. Now arise, Lord God, and come to your resting place, you, and the ark of your might. May your priests, Lord God, be clothed with salvation, may your faithful people rejoice in your goodness.