

Week of May 29 - "House of Prayer" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 2

Connect Together

Where do you usually go to pray? Is it the same place you would go to hide from danger? Is seclusion important for your prayer time? Why or why not?

Lesson Verses - Matthew 21:12-13 (CSB)

12 Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. 13 He said to them, "It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves!"

Study & Apply

1. For the Jews in Jesus' day, the Temple was the central place of worship and the sacred building located within Jerusalem. It was part of their religious tradition. Today, many religious Jews hope to build a Third Temple.

    a. Why do we often stress that a "church" is not a building, but a body of believers? What misunderstandings does this help people realize when we teach this truth? (Ephesians 1:22–23; 1 Corinthians 12:13; John 4:23-24)

    b. How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit make you a "house of prayer" and why do you need Him to be able to talk with God?
    (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:21, 6:18; Jude 1:20; Romans 8:26)

APPLY: How does prayer and hope bring you peace especially in view of the current state of the world today? How is prayer connected to Jesus' power, heavenly position, and authority?

Study & Apply

2. Read Isaiah 56:6-7, related to the passage Jesus refers to. Notice how the prophecy in Isaiah speaks of the foreigners being God's people.
   (See also: Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 72:17; Revelation 7:9-12)

   a. How does Christ's resurrection and the destruction of this temple allow people in every nation to worship Him today? (John 2:19)

   b. What Biblical passages and promises teach that Jesus is King not just of the Jews but people of all nations? How will it be different and BETTER than what the Jews expect?

APPLY: Can you think of a time you were invited somewhere and at first disappointed so many people were unexpectedly there, but actually had a blessed time? What was preventing you from being able to enjoy your time there at first? How is it that we ① *can,* ② *should, and* ③ *will be* a unified body of believers of people from ALL nations?

Discuss & Share

What does Christ's kingship and the body of Christ as a House of Prayer have to do with Asia's future? How can this be realized practically as an individual, as a small group, and as a church?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.

Have you taken Class 402? It is coming this weekend! And don't forget to vote!