



WEEK 4: WALKING HOUSES OF PRAYER

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

Surrounding the account of Jesus cleansing the temple, driving out the money changers and overthrowing tables, is Jesus cursing a fig tree because it has no fruit. The combining of these two accounts is intentional as the reason Jesus was angered in both is because fruit was expected—physical fruit on a tree and spiritual fruit in the temple. Now, we who believe in Jesus are the temple of His Spirit and He desires us to be walking houses of prayer. It is the only way we will bear fruit. Jesus also promises we can move mountains with our prayers, so how do we deal with unanswered prayers?

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What is a task that requires a lot of your focus/attention—why is that?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Mark 11:12-25

12 The next day when they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to find out if there was anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. 14 He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And his disciples heard it.

15 They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. 17 He was teaching them: "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!"

18 The chief priests and the scribes heard it and started looking for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was astonished by his teaching.

19 Whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

20 Early in the morning, as they were passing by, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. 21 Then Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

22 Jesus replied to them, "Have faith in God. 23 Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for—believe that you have received it and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing."

What similarities do you see between the fig tree and the temple courts?

What are Jesus' actions in this passage? What does He say about the fig tree, temple courts, and prayer?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

What makes someone "good" at praying?

How does outward character impact someone's inward prayer life? How does it impact other relationships?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

Is there clutter in your life that is stopping you from being a house of prayer?

What does it mean to be a temple knowing that the living God is living within you?

Eric suggested living out a rhythm of "habit stacking" in his message. What does that look like for you? What would it take to step into that?