

Citizens of Heaven

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OCT 6, 2024

True Church

The church best serves the world when it is most unlike it.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live in this world with the values of another world, namely God's Kingdom. The most important place we do that is within the life of the church. How we practice our faith as a congregation has a greater influence on our surrounding community than anything else we may choose to do.

Read Mark 11:11–25.

- In what ways does the church of Jesus in our day mirror the troubles of the temple seen in this passage (Mark 11:15–17)? How have the world's values, at times, found their way into the life of the church?
- What is the meaning of Jesus cursing the fig tree here? What does it suggest about Israel's worship life and Jesus's actions (Mark 11:13–14)? (see Hosea 9:10; Micah 7:1)
- What is the larger context of the Isaiah passage Jesus quotes here (Mark 11:17a)? (see Isaiah 56:3–7; Matthew 28:19; Revelation 7:9)
- What is the larger context of the Jeremiah passage Jesus quotes here (Mark 11:17b)? (see Jeremiah 7:1–11) How had the temple itself, in Jeremiah's day and Jesus' day, become a source of false security?
- In what ways do Jesus' actions point to the ultimate destruction of the temple (some 30 years later) and the new form of worship his death and resurrection would begin? (see John 2:18–22; 1 Peter 2:4–5)
- What are the characteristics of the new worship that Jesus puts forth here (Mark 11:22–25)?
- What are you struggling to believe God for in your life today (Mark 11:23)?

Praying together

God and Father, we pray our church practices our faith in the ways you have designed so that we might be a true light to a dark world around us.