

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of November 8, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus is the temple of God, the once-and-for-all atoning sacrifice, the great high priest, and the mediator who broke down the barrier of sin that separated us from God.

**This Week's Text:** John 2:13-22

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb." **Revelation 21:3-4, 22**

**Related Texts:** Revelation 21:3-4, 22; John 20:31; Mark 15:37-38

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions of this week's sermon?
- Why did Jesus go to the temple in Jerusalem? What did he find at the temple? Why was this area called the "Court of the Gentiles," and what was its purpose? If purchasing sacrificial animals, collecting the temple tax, and money changing were necessary for travelers coming to Jerusalem, why was Jesus angry?
- How did corrupting the temple discourage worship? How did corrupting the temple discourage the display of God's glory to the Gentiles? How can we worship God in our everyday lives in ways that display God's glory and love to our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family?
- How did the Jewish leaders respond to Jesus' passionate cleansing of the temple? Why did they ask Jesus for a sign? What about Jesus were they calling into question?

- What was Jesus' answer to the leaders' question? How did his reference to his sacrificial death and resurrection validate his authority to cleanse the temple?
- In his answer, Jesus intentionally referenced the Holy of Holies. What is the Holy of Holies? What was Jesus communicating by linking himself (his body) to the Holy of Holies, the place where God's glory dwelt on earth? Discuss how Jesus is the better and greater Temple of God. Reference Revelation 21:3-4, 22 and Mark 15:37-38.
- What was the result of Jesus' cleansing of the temple? Reference verse 22. What is John's purpose for writing his gospel? Reference John 20:31. What does he want us to believe about Jesus in this passage?
- Unlike John, the synoptic gospels all place the cleansing of the temple at the end of Jesus' ministry. Reference Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-18, and Luke 19:45-46. Are all four gospels describing the same event? Why or why not?