

**DISCUSSION 1**

This passage further reveals Jesus's passion for righteousness and truth. This zeal teaches us many things about the holiness of God.

1. Why do you think Jesus acted so strongly in this case?
2. How is God's holiness seen in this passage?
3. How does this passage address the importance of purity in the temple and in our lives?

**DISCUSSION 2**

The question the Jews ask Jesus in verse 18 gives us insight into the condition of their hearts.

1. What does the Jewish leaders' question reveal about their hearts (See Matt. 12:39)?
2. Where do you think their devotion was?
3. Read vv. 23-25 again. What did John mean when he said Jesus knew what was "in man"?
4. What does true desire for God look like? How might we embrace that desire in our lives?

**DISCUSSION 3**

Jesus's answer further reveals the heart condition of the Jewish leaders and provides greater understanding about the mysteries of God and his wise plan.

1. According to John, what does Jesus mean when he says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (v. 19)? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19. How do these two verses relate?
2. Romans 12:1 says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. In light of this week's passage, what does this truth mean for our lives?
3. How do we sometimes worship God for what he gives instead of who he is? How can we live in a way that puts the giver above the gifts?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Why did Jesus drive out those who were selling goods and exchanging money in the temple?
2. Why did the Jews question his actions? What does this say about their hearts?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up”? Why is that good news for us?
4. How can we make sure that we put God—not the gifts he brings—first in our lives?

## **APPLICATION**

1. Write down some characteristics of a healthy friendship. After you do that, create a list of some things that define your relationship with God. Compare the lists and pray about what might be missing in your relationship with God. Ask God to show you why this aspect is missing. Then, pray for wisdom to grow in those areas with his help.
2. Spend time doing something you enjoy. While doing so, be mindful of the God who gave you the ability to enjoy that activity. Take time to praise him for that.