

Love This Book// God and the Messiah/ Jesus vs. the Temple

Main Idea: The center of Christianity is not a place or building; it is the person of the Messiah.

Connecting

Have you ever toured any sites or buildings that are cultural icons?

When you see something wrong, are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting?

Understanding

What are some things you learned about the temple from Sunday's message?

Read Mark 11:11-25. Why do you think Jesus uses that fig tree to illustrate Israel?

How does the temple fit into this illustration?

Why was Jesus so upset about the money changers?

Read Isaiah 56:1-8. What does this passage tell us about God's desire for the foreigner or the outsider?

Living

What are some ways that the kingdom of God is not what you initially thought it was?

What parallels can you draw between how the people of Israel viewed their temple and how many people today view their churches?

What can we do that will keep us from "smelling rotten to God"?

In what ways can the center of your faith drift away from the Messiah? How do you guard against this?