

## Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 2:12-25 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

## CONNECT Group study questions, John 2:12-25

February 22, 2015

### Title: Our Loving Savior Becomes the Righteous Judge

**Read to the group:** So who is this Jesus? In the beginning of Chapter 1 in our study, we learn He is the Creator of the Universe, then we see Him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In the first 11 verses of Chapter 2, He is the miracle winemaker, and now He's the Righteous Judge swinging a whip and driving price-gouging merchants out of the temple. As Peppy said, just when you think you have Him pegged, He reveals Himself differently. With this in mind, let's take on the first question.

**Question:** From your knowledge of Jesus as He is revealed in the gospels, can you think of any other descriptions of Jesus in addition to Creator, Redeemer, Miracle Worker, and Judge? **Facilitator:** Teacher is another. Prophet.

**Question:** Review the descriptions of Jesus and notice how some of them appear to be in contrast with others—Redeemer and Judge, for example. We know there is no contradiction in Jesus' character, so what do you think is the common thread that makes sense of these descriptions? **Hint:** What does Jesus consistently hate, and what does He desire? **Facilitator:** He hates human pride and self-reliance; He loves faith in God and humble service.

**Question:** Jesus said: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." We know that the temple was indeed destroyed, but we learn that in verse 21 "[Jesus] was speaking of the temple of His body," which was raised on the third day after His crucifixion. In what way or ways does Jesus replace the temple? **Facilitator:** We go to Jesus to approach and meet with God, experience God's presence, and be cleansed of sin. See 1 Timothy 2:5.

**Question:** "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Here we learn the bodies of believers—our bodies—are temples where the Holy Spirit resides within. What does the context of these verses tell us we should do to keep our body/temples undefiled? **Facilitator:** 1 Corinthians 6:18 tells us what to do, and the context, verses 12-20, tells us sexual immorality is unique because it is a sin against a person's own body, which we now know is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

**Question:** Pastor Peppy mentioned that Jesus was in complete control of his emotions when he drove out the money changers. We could argue that human emotion probably had nothing to do with His enforcing the righteous judgement of God. John even inserts Psalm 69:9, which expresses Christ's zeal for the holiness of God's house. Does Jesus Christ have the same authority to drive out anything that defiles His house now that He resides as the Holy Spirit in your body? How does He enforce His judgement to clean His house—your body—of anything that would defile it? **Facilitator:** Let the discussion proceed, then read Hebrews 12:6. **Question:** What can a child of God do to lessen the pain of discipline—perhaps remove the need for the scourge altogether—when Jesus cleans His house?

**Meditation and prayer:** Consider the importance Jesus placed in keeping the Jewish temple of that day undefiled, and examine your hearts for anything that would defile the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is your body. Pray that God would cleanse you of anything that defiles, and that scourging with a whip will not be necessary. **Read:** 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Psalm 51:17.