



# Small Group Study Guide for March 3, 2024

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme: “Zeal For Your House”** Jesus’ first visit to Jerusalem is a dramatic scene. As He enters the outer court of the temple, Jesus sees that things aren’t the way they should be. The temple was supposed to be God’s way to meet sinners and offer forgiveness and reconciliation; however, Jesus stumbled upon a market. Therefore, Jesus displays a zealous desire to remove those things which prevent us from receiving the gospel. This story is fitting for Lent, a season of refinement. May our prayer be for refined hearts and minds, focused on Jesus. Thanks be to God that Jesus now resides as the true temple that fills our hearts.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. How have you seen God at work this past week? Take turns sharing your “God-sightings.”
2. What are your pet peeves?

## **In the Word: Read John 2:13-22**

3. The temple system relied on its marketplace sales to function and support the Jewish sacrificial structures. Verse 13 reminds us that during this time preparations for Passover were taking place. What kind of repercussions could a major temple disruption (such as Jesus’ actions) have during this time?

4. Place yourself in the disciples’ shoes. How would you feel witnessing Jesus “make a scene”?

5. Read Psalm 69:7-12. Why do you think the disciples remember this psalm as they watch Jesus turn tables?

6. They've been working on the temple for 46 years, and Jesus claims to have the power to raise it up in three days. When He died, He replaced the temple with Himself. What can we conclude about our places of worship and the temple Jesus calls us to preserve in our hearts?

7. In the Bible, we find many demonstrations of "prophetic acts." For example, Isaiah walks around naked and barefoot for three years just to send a message concerning Egypt. How might Jesus' actions be prophetic? What messages do you think are given through His actions?

**Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

9. How do you handle anger?

10. This is not exactly the picture of Jesus we hear about today in our world. How does this image of Jesus affect you?

11. There are many times throughout Scripture that God's people go through refinement. What is one area of your life that could use refinement this Lent?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, we give thanks each day for the blessings You give to us. You are full of grace, truth, and zeal for Your people. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we might be refined. Help us be changed. And lead us to rejoice in the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. \_

**Next Week:** Our Lenten journey continues with a message from the wilderness. We'll reflect on Moses and the bronze serpent. And our Lenten Midweek series, "The Colors of the Cross," will deal with a message on friendship, betrayal, and forgiveness.