

Getting to Know Each Other.

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“What is your favorite snack food when you are hungry?”* *

Follow up. Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?
Or how else did you obey Jesus?

Vision. Jesus told us to “Make disciples.” The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

Bible Study Introduction. In this passage Jesus deals with people who were using the “court of the gentiles” in the Temple for selling animals for sacrifice. This was the only place where non-Jewish people could come to pray in the Temple. In the Old Testament the fig tree was sometimes used as a symbol representing the nation of Israel. Before fig trees have ripe figs, they have new buds of the figs. They are not as tasty, but they are edible, kind of like trail mix.

Pray. Before we read the Scripture, let’s pray that God will speak to each one of us.

Read. We will read through the passage two times and then discuss it, so listen carefully. Get two people to read **Mark 11:11-25**. **

Discuss these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

1. What stands out or surprises you in this passage?
2. What does it show us about people and choices we can make?
 - When Jesus first came into Jerusalem, He saw what was going on in the Temple. How do you think Jesus felt about what He saw?
 - Rather than reacting immediately, Jesus left the Temple and spent the night in Bethany. What does His example show us about how to deal with our anger?
3. What does this passage show us about God?
 - Jesus was deeply grieved to find people buying and selling in the Temple instead of praying. He was also grieved to find a fig tree without any fig buds. How do you think what Jesus did to the fig tree was a picture of how He felt about the Jews’ Temple worship?
 - What are some things in the lives of Christians today that probably cause Jesus to feel the same way He did about what was happening in the Temple?
 - Jesus said that forgiving others is an essential part of prayer. Who do you need to forgive?

Obeying Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. As we pray silently for 30 seconds, see if God speaks to your heart. Pray something like this:
“Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me today?” [30 sec. silent prayer]

Remember to obey what God is saying to you. And this week ask God who He wants you to talk with about Jesus. Let’s close in prayer.

Closing Prayer.

Pray something like: “Lord, prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

* If there are no new people, you can skip the “icebreaker.”
** Reading from different translations often helps.