

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

DATE: February 15, 2026
SPEAKER: Peter Bergeson

TITLE: Cleaning House
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:12-22

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: What is one 'pet peeve' or minor injustice that always gets your 'tables flipping' (makes you feel a bit of righteous indignation)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read the scripture for today

1. What specifically provokes Jesus' anger in the temple (vv. 12-13)? What does this reveal about God's priorities for worship and the purpose of the temple?
2. Jesus heals the blind and the lame immediately after cleansing the temple (vv. 14-16). Why do you think Matthew places these actions side by side? What does this say about who is truly welcome in God's presence?
3. How do the reactions of the religious leaders contrast with the responses of the children? What warnings or encouragements do you see here for people who are very familiar with religious things?
4. In the account of the fig tree (vv. 18-20), what does the tree symbolize? Why is the absence of fruit such a serious issue in this moment of Jesus' ministry?
5. Compare the fig tree and the temple. In what ways are they making the same spiritual point about outward appearance versus inward reality?
6. Jesus connects the fig tree incident to faith, prayer, and belief (vv. 21-22). How should we understand this promise without treating prayer as a way to get whatever we want?
7. Personal application: Where might there be "leaves without fruit" in your own life or in the life of the church? What would genuine repentance and renewed faith look like in those areas?

APPLICATION

1. What is your nagging unanswered question?
2. What did you want to hear that you didn't hear from the message?
3. How can we get to know God as He is and not in the limited way we do now?
4. Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do?
5. What's one thing from this text that you could say to a believer/unbeliever about who God is?

PRAYER Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text.
Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

SHEPHERDING Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 14:7-8: ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

REMINDERS

Small Group Checklist

- We suggest you serve 1x every six weeks or so. Discuss ideas.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!!
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

Go through the Announcements in the Bulletin together to see what is coming up at FCC and how you can get plugged in! Here are a couple of those things - all registrations can be found online! www.fccnr.org

-WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

There are many opportunities to connect! Join our Wednesday Bible Study, attend Ladies Time Out on the third Wednesday of the month, participate in our monthly book club and more!

-MEN'S MINISTRY:

Men in high school and older are invited to a Men's Retreat on March 6-7 at the IRBC in Ventura, Iowa. Registration is open on the events tab of the website: www.fccnr.org/events and closes MONDAY Feb 16th

-BAPTISM

Are you ready to take this next step of obedience and get Baptized? We would love to meet with you! Register on the events tab of the website!