

## Discussion Guide and Study Notes

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

### TILL [Get the soil ready]

Time again to retrace the steps of God's Story:

- Creation: perfect with God's representatives, Adam & Eve, given authority to take care of the earth and fill it. They are made in God's image.
- Sin: Adam & Eve sin and hand over the authority God gave them. Now, mankind is separated from God and subject to death.
- Redemption story begins. God will not abandon his creation or his children.

The story chronicles God's plan to bring mankind back to himself and heal them. What are the rest of main events and people? What do we learn from the flood to Solomon's Temple?

### SOW [What God wants us to hear]

There is a fundamental and theological problem with a Temple for God. Solomon acknowledges this in 2 Chronicles 6:18. What is this problem?

How can we reconcile this?

- There are some passages that give us hints.
- See Exodus 34:29-25, Luke 9:28-32, Romans 1:20, Hebrews 1:3.
- God's glory is everywhere, but he has, at times, revealed or focused it in obvious ways. Consider radiation. It's everywhere from the sun, the earth, and every living thing. But, some elements emit concentrated radio activity.
- Could the Temple be a place where God's glory is "concentrated" for everyone to see?



## Temple [Working the truth into our hearts]

The original Temple was to be not only for God's people Israel but for all nations to find God.

The New Testament Temple (the church!) has the same purpose. In Jesus' day, the religious leaders sought to repel non-Jews. Here's a photo of an actual sign that reads in Greek and Latin, "No foreigner is to enter within the balustrade and embankment around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his death which follows."



How welcoming is this?

How is today's church unwelcoming? How can it be more welcoming?

## Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

The church is the Temple now.

- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Eph. 2:21
- 1 Peter 2:4-10

From the message on Sunday, we learned the Temple had several functions. How do these translate to the church today?

Remember: the church is NOT the building. It's us!

- Place for God's name to dwell
- Place of repentance
- Place for foreigners to hear God
- Place to get direction
- Place of prayer

Pick a few of the purposes above. What will you do practically to make Zion more in line with these purposes? Record your commitment in your journal.

Preview: many become confused when reading the rest of Israel's history after Solomon because they do not recognize one historical fact. The nation split north/south. The northern kingdom was still called Israel. The southern kingdom included Judah & Benjamin, but it was called Judah. So, each kingdom had its own line of kings. Be careful when reading! See 1 Kings 11 and 12 for the origins of these two kingdoms.

