

# The Gospel Of John

## ICEBREAKER

Rate how much Road Rage you deal with on a scale of 1-10? (1 = go with the flow; 10 = can you even be in a car and not be angry?) Did anyone's response surprise you?

## CONTEXT

Jesus is going to the temple in Jerusalem for Passover, where He finds the money changers and those selling sacrificial animals taking advantage of the people who desire to make a sacrifice. They were also doing this in the only place where Gentiles, non-Jewish people, could come to the temple to worship God. Jesus' passion for the house of God and exploited people is displayed through His actions.

## PASSAGE

John 2:13-25

## DISCUSS

Read Ephesians 4:26-27 and James 1:19-20. What do these verses tell us about anger? What is the normal relationship between anger and sin? How can we be angry and not sin?

Read Malachi 3:1-5. It says that the Lord will come to His temple and will be like a refiner's fire and soap. What is the purpose

## DISCUSS CONTINUED

of refiner's fire or soap? How is Jesus doing these things for the temple? Why was this needed if the Israelites had the Old Testament scriptures and knew the right thing to do?

Jesus drove those taking profiting off of the sacrificial system out of the court of the Gentiles. Gentiles are people considered outsiders by the Jewish people. What does this say about who Jesus wanted to be welcome to worship God? Why does this matter? Who could we see as outsiders today and why?

Reread verses 23-25. This set of verses ends with John telling us Jesus didn't entrust Himself to them because He knows what is in man. Just as Jesus cleansed the outside of the temple, we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. What cleansing do you need Jesus to perform in you? If you feel comfortable, share with the group.

## NEXT STEPS

What are some ways we make church about us and our gain rather than people who have come to meet God? What can we do to change this individually and as a group, removing barriers from people who want to learn more about Jesus?