

**Icebreaker:**

Jesus got angry. Who gets the most angry in your family? What makes you angry?

**Read this week's scripture and discuss:**

1. When you think of the word "holy," what thoughts and images come to mind? What does holiness mean to you?
2. The word "holy" (sanctus) means "to set apart" both in Jeremiah 7 and Matthew 21, for what purpose had the Temple in Jerusalem been "set apart"? What have you been set apart for?
3. When you see something wrong are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting? What makes you feel righteous anger/righteous indignation?
4. Some have argued that Jesus turned over the tables because the religious leaders made worship too convenient (by selling doves, etc. on Temple grounds – Matthew 21:12). Are there places that the Church has made it too easy to follow Jesus?
5. James Bryan Smith says we prefer a Mr. Rogers Jesus. Do you wrestle with how Jesus can be so loving and act the way he did in Matthew 21?
6. In what area of your life (that you feel comfortable to share) does Jesus need to "overturn the tables" in order to shape you like Jesus (become more holy)?
7. In Jeremiah 7, the prophet says "God is watching." In Matthew 21, Jesus is watching the money changers. How does it feel to know God is watching you?

**Prayer:**

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

**prayer requests**

- > Pray for peace and comfort for the Shelton, Reese, and Hunn families and friends in the deaths of Harrison, Shelby, and Michael.
- > Pray for Elizabeth in the open adoption of twin boys born to her last week.
- > Pray for the team and guests of the Men's Great Banquet, taking place in our building this weekend and for the team and guests of the Women's Great Banquet that begins on Thursday.

[The following are from ZPC's prayer calendar, which is available at the Welcome Center or at [zpc.org/prayer](http://zpc.org/prayer).]

- > Pray for the ministry of the Fuller Center and the blessings of homes for families in need in Central Indiana.
- > Pray for the ZPC Tech Team that works behind the scenes to provide us with AV and technical services that allow us to worship each Sunday.

Last week we looked at love. This week we are looking at holiness. Sometimes these seem like opposite sides of a coin – a God who loves us so much he sent his son and at the same time is holy, perfect, and righteous. We know that Jesus was sinless and yet how do we reconcile the Jesus we see in Matthew 21?

1. For some, the word holy might have a negative connotation – like the phrase "holier than thou." But what does it mean that Jesus was holy? Are there other meanings that are positive?
2. Considering that holy means "set apart," can help us understand and apply this week's scripture passages. The Temple in Jerusalem had been set apart for worship, prayer, offerings, and sacrifices. What might God be setting us apart for?
3. We all have ways we tend to respond to injustice. Whether we tend to act immediately or ponder too long, either response could be in contrast to what God would have us do. Encourage your group to share what causes them to feel righteous anger and discuss how God might be calling them to respond.
4. Do we make God angry when we try to make things easier or more convenient such as posting services online? Can your group think of any other ways we may do this?
5. The "Mr. Rogers Jesus" can be easier to love and to accept. Yet Jesus is also holy. How do we balance this in our relationship with him and also in our earthly relationships and daily lives?
6. Sometimes areas of our lives that we hope to keep hidden are the exact areas that God wants to have access to. What would happen if we allowed God to have that access? What would be some steps to take toward that?
7. This probably feels a little creepy, especially in light of question 6. How often do you think about God watching you? Does it impact your decisions and actions?