

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Getting lost in unimportant things seems to be the mantra of today. Religious people can get lost in dogma and ritual. Materialistic people can get lost in their stuff. Distracted people can get lost in...anything. Jesus challenges all of us to evaluate what's most important.

GETTING STARTED

1. Sean shared a story about how a newspaper missed the main point of the Wright Brothers' first flight. Can you think of a time when you missed the main point?
2. Today's passage will talk about Jesus getting angry. Describe a time you went "medieval" (got angry). Was it justified? What is the difference between healthy anger and unhealthy anger?

BIBLE IDEA

3. Read Mark 11:15-19. Why did Jesus get angry?
4. Read Mark 11:12-14. Why was the fig tree cursed? Now read Mark 11:20-24. Does this seem like a strange answer? Why or why not? (for fun, have a Fig Newton!)
5. Considering Mark 11:15-24, why do you think Jesus ties together two very different ideas--the fig tree and the Temple--as he teaches about prayer?
6. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. Verse 22 begins with 'let us draw near.' Next read Hebrews 4:16. What does God want from you? Why does God want you to pray? Why do you think so many folks fail to pray?

NEXT STEPS

7. What would it look like for you to put more focus on prayer this week? When will you do this? How could you remind yourself to reflect on the week and the difference increased prayer made on your life?