

SESSION 4

Gathered as the Temple of God

TRUTH: *What is God saying?*

Read Exodus 29:42-45. What was the purpose of the temple/tabernacle described in this passage?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:19-22. What do you think it means that the church is God's temple? In what ways is the church similar to the temple in the Old Testament? In what ways is it different?

EQUIPPING: *How do we live this out?*

Based on 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, what significance do you think Christians should give to physical church buildings?

Based on 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, what significance do you think Christians should give to the community of the church?



ACCOUNTABILITY: *How am I personally doing in this area?*

We live in a very individualistic culture, and can tend to bring that individualism into our faith. How does this picture of the church as God's temple help you battle your tendency towards individualism?

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul was confronting a church that was full of division, gossip, jealousy, and pride. He said that their attitudes towards one another were acts of destruction towards God's temple. In what ways might you personally be damaging God's temple? In what ways are you personally seeking to "build it up in love?" (Ephesians 4:16)

MISSION: *Going out with the Gospel*

In ancient Israel, foreigners would travel from far distances to come and see the Temple, and would sometimes even be converted to worship Israel's God. God's people should "go and tell" into the world with the good news, but they can also say "come and see," and invite people in to see the beauty of what God is building in His church. Is there anyone that you can invite to church to "come and see"?

SUPPLICATION: *Praying for what only God can do*

Ask God to help you be a part of building up his holy temple, not tearing it down. Pray for the health and growth of your church!