

# S I G N S

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Welcome & Announcements

*Welcome to community group! We believe that people come to faith and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also spending time with other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. Here's what's happening in the broader life of the church:*

- **Easter Weekend**

Although it's just the beginning of the season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), Easter weekend will be here before we know it! We'll gather on Good Friday for worship at 6:30p, then gather for a pancake brunch and egg hunt on Saturday at 10a, and then for worship as usual 9a and 10:45a Easter Sunday!

- **Women's Happy Hour | March 30th, 5:30p**

Ladies, it is exactly what it sounds like: happy hour with other women from the church. All are welcome to join, it'll be held at Chuy's in Kenwood on Hosbrook Rd.

- **Men's Retreat April 24th-25th**

Gentlemen...early bird registration has begun for our annual Men's Retreat @ Higher Ground! Our speaker this year is pastor and author Mike Khandjian from Chapelgate Church in Baltimore. The early bird registration deadline is March 20th so get signed up today!

# The Cleansing of the Temple

(John 2.13-25)

## OPENER

*We are in a sermon series called “Signs” during the season of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation, a season of repentance and reflection, leading up to Easter weekend. As we look at these miracles Jesus performed - “signs” as John calls them - let’s make our prayer be for eyes to see the signs, ears to hear God’s truth, and hearts to love God more.*

*Open up with a prayer toward that end: eyes to see and ears to hear, giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.*

**Opening Question:** Last Friday was National Chili Day. So which is it... Skyline or Goldstar?

- AND, what’s one food that you like, that you know a lot of other people don’t like? (i.e. black licorice or lima beans, Cincinnati Chili, Wasabi peas, goetta, etc.)

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*This week we’re looking at the Cleansing of the Temple from John 2.*

**>> READ >> John 2.13-25**

1. Reading this story, what immediately stands out to you? What is interesting? Challenging? Confusing? Encouraging? What questions does it raise for you?
2. Vv.13-17 — It’s tempting to call this Jesus’ Temple Tantrum (ba dum bump). But actually Jesus’ anger is extremely intentional. Why do you think Jesus is so angry?
3. Read Malachi 3:1-2. How does this passage help illustrate Jesus’ purpose here?
4. Are there times when it’s okay, or even good, to be angry? Can you give some examples? How do we avoid sinful anger?
5. How should Jesus’ reaction inform our view of worship?
6. Vv.18-22 — What “sign” does Jesus offer to demonstrate his authority to re-arrange the Temple?
7. Most of the commentators make the point that John intentionally sets this episode beside the Jesus’ changing of water to wine at Cana. John wants to show us a full-orbed picture of Jesus. If he comes into your life, sometimes it’s going to feel like drinking wine from his table; and at other times like he’s flipping over all the tables. Have you had either of these kinds of experiences in your life with Jesus?
8. What is one way your faith can grow in light of what we’ve discussed?

## PRAY

Take some time and pray together. Pray for each other and pray specifically for eyes to see God in the scriptures, in the signs we’ll be discussing through Lent, and in all the ways He might want to show his love for us.