

Greater You: Zeal - Week 1

Key Passages: John 2:17; Psalm 69:9

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: What is something you are so passionate about that others would describe you as being "zealous"? Why?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud John 2:17 and Psalm 69:9.

- 1. John 2:17 mentions the disciples remembering, "Zeal for your house will consume me." What do you think this reveals about Jesus' passion for God's presence?**

Leader Notes (can be shared with the group):

This reflects Jesus' intense devotion to God and His mission to restore true worship. For example, the temple cleansing demonstrates His commitment to ensuring that God's house remains a place of reverence and purity.

The call for zeal finds its roots in the Ten Commandments: having no other gods and making no graven images (Exodus 20:3-4). God's jealousy is not like human jealousy but reflects His desire for our singular devotion. It's a holy passion that calls us to prioritize Him above all else.

- 2. In Psalm 69:9, the psalmist expresses a similar zeal but also references suffering. How do zeal and sacrifice often go hand in hand in our relationship with God?**

Leader Notes (can be shared with the group):

Zeal often leads to challenges, as seen in Jesus' life and the psalmist's suffering. Devotion to God sometimes requires enduring hardships for His glory, reminding us that true zeal involves a willingness to face difficulties for the sake of our faith.

Digging Deeper:

In Jesus' day, the temple represented the presence of God. Yet, in John 2:19, Jesus speaks of raising the "temple" in three days, pointing to Himself. How does this redefine where and how we encounter God today?

Leader Notes (can be shared with the group):

Jesus' statement reveals that He is the ultimate temple—the true dwelling place of God among His people. This means that through His resurrection, we encounter God not in a building but through a personal relationship with Christ. As believers, we are also described as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), emphasizing that God's presence now resides within us.

BECOME:

Pastor Danny shared there are two evidences of our “Zeal” for God. They are our desire:

- 1. To Know God: Have someone read Philippians 3:10-11. Philippians 3 speaks of knowing Christ, even through suffering. What steps can you take to grow in your knowledge of God this week? (Ideas: daily Scripture reading, prayer, listening to sermons.)**
- 2. To Do God’s Will: Acts 20:24 highlights Paul’s commitment to finishing his course for the gospel. What might God be calling you to prioritize in your life as an act of zeal for His will?**

Pastor Danny introduced Jon Bos as someone who has appropriately responded to the jealousy of God. What inspired you most about Jon’s testimony?

Practical Application: Consider an area of your life where you need to redirect focus back to God. What specific step will you take this week to reflect your zeal for Him?

Close by praying together.