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WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

God created us to know Him and experience His goodness and love. He has revealed Himself in many ways, none better than through His Son, Jesus Christ. He made sure that everything we need to know about Jesus and life was preserved in what we call the Scriptures, the Bible. For us who love God, we long to listen to and learn from Him through the Scriptures. As you read in the Bible this week, remember that God wants you to know and enjoy a relationship with Him.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE, 2:13-25

In previous weeks, we learned about who Jesus is and why He came. (1:1-18) Then we saw Jesus inviting people to follow Him. (1:19-51) Last week, Jesus attended a wedding that ran out of wine. His mother asked Him to help and He changed water in stone pots used for ceremonial washing into an abundance of wine. This was a "sign" that He came full of grace. (see 1:14, 16) He was replacing the old covenant of the law with a new way of cleansing through His provision of abundance of grace. (see 1:16) This week's passage is continuing the author's theme of new beginnings that came with Jesus the Messiah.

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU EXPLORE THE PASSAGE (2:13-25)

What happens in this week's story?

To the Jewish people, the temple was the place where God lived and where they worshiped Him. Why might Jesus have needed to clear the temple area? What was His primary concern?

What did His clearing indicate about the condition of the worship by these people?

What was the line of questioning by the "Jews" (meaning Jewish religious leaders)? What else might they have questioned?

How does Jesus respond to their question? What did this answer mean about Him? How is Jesus a replacement for the purposes of the temple?

How was Jesus' clearing of the temple a "sign"? What might be the meaning behind the "sign"?

How might last week's and this week's stories be related to Jesus coming as the Messiah? What are the common elements? What might this week's story mean?

Many think there is a connection between the two stories in chapter two with the introductory statements of chapter one. How might these two stories connect with those statements? (See 1:10-11, 14, 16-18)

What was Jesus' response to the people who "saw the signs" and "believed in His name"? What was the reason for this? How does this connect with Jesus clearing of the temple and His response to the questioning by the leaders of the Jews?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Each week we will learn more about Jesus. What do we learn about Jesus from this story? How does this fit with what we read in chapter one? What is your response to this story?

How was the temple significant to the Jews at the time of this story? What made this the perfect time for Jesus to call them out? What might be something like the temple to us today? How is Jesus to be the temple in our lives?

The subject of genuine faith/belief will continue throughout "John." (see 2:23-25) What do we learn about genuine belief in this week's story? How is this relevant to people today?

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- Please pray for our food distribution that starts back this week
- Please pray for our Kid's Ministry team who are serving and teaching our kids
- Please pray for the Elder's as they seek God together regarding our church family