

About “Home Groups”

The purpose of Home Groups is to live as God’s family in real and intentional community. To experience this life together, we need opportunity to love, encourage, and care for one another. This will mean time together to pray for each other and trust in God to empower us to love and serve one another, and to be intentional to bear one another’s burdens. When this happens, we experience the fullness of Christ living together in the joy and power of the Spirit of God.

About “Home Group Notes.”

Each week, the Home Group Notes will usually include these elements:

- Sharing something about ourselves, learning to be real and trust one another
 - Encouragement to read and listen to God’s Word, the Bible, and answer questions to help you observe and explore the meaning
 - Questions for discussion and application
 - Prayer suggestions
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SHARE A MEMORY

When you were a kid, what or who was a special place to visit? What made it special?

LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD

“The Church is a Temple” is often a little understood topic. We did not grow up with God’s temple in the center of our community. So the idea of a temple can feel a bit foreign. If you haven’t yet, listen to the message with this title available through our website or app. You can also view an explanation of “temple” at this website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTnq6I3vUbU>

Definition of “temple:” Derived from a word meaning “to dwell,” a temple was a place

- From the beginning of creation, God dwelled (was present) in the earthly dwelling with people. Eden was where God walked with people. All of creation was God’s temple, a place where He rests and rules.
- Old Testament temple: The place where God lives and rules as king. (But this doesn’t mean that this temple contains God.)
- After people failed to worship and honor God and live as His people, God’s Spirit departed the earthly temple.
- But the Old Testament spoke of another future temple which God would inhabit forever with His new priesthood.
- In the New Testament, Jesus made it clear that through Him, God’s presence and rule was coming into the world in a new way. He was the true temple. It would expand out to include all of creation.
- After His resurrection, God would come to dwell in believers
- In multiple passages, believers are now the true temple
- In Revelation 21:3, God declares that He will dwell (tabernacle) with His people forever.

Read each of these passages and write about what we learn about the church as God's temple, the place where he dwells.

John 2:18-22

1 Corinthians 3:10-17

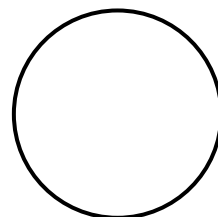
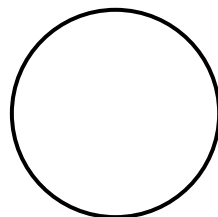
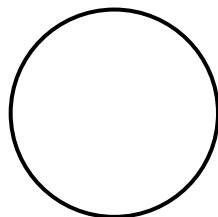
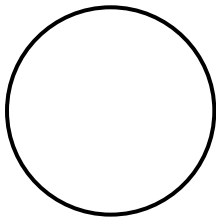
John 14:16-17

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

1 Peter 2:4-5

Revelation 21:3

In the four circles below, how would you draw and explain God's work in the world to be a place where God rests and rules?



Genesis 1

Genesis 3

1 Peter 3:18

Revelation 21:3

What does it mean to you that God dwells in us? How does this affect how you see life?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

It is clear that we (plural /together) are now the temple of God. How should this affect our view of our relationship with God? Our view of each other?

In 1 Peter 2:1-5, we are a “royal priesthood.” What does this say about our identity and role?

In our troubled times, how does the fact that we are the temple, the place where God rules, intersect with our world? How do we represent the presence of the living God in our world?

How should understanding that we are God’s temple affect our unity? (see Ephesians 4:3) Our morality? (see 1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

PLEASE PRAY

- As we start this new season, please discuss and pray for your adopted Global Partners
- Please pray for one another in your group to grow, to experience true community
- Please pray for our college / young adults as they grow in faith and unity
- Please pray for our “kings and all those in authority” (1 Timothy 2:2)