

A Birth, a Prophecy, and a _____



The Story of the Temple

Various Texts
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Tim Theule

The Bible is an extraordinary book that tells one BIG story. This Christmas we're exploring the story to see how some of the Bible's major storylines lead us to Jesus. We look today at the "The Story of the Temple."

A Spirit, a People, and a _____

Eden, an Intimacy, and an _____

A Return, a Uniting, and an _____

A Covenant, a Tent, and a _____

TAKING ACTION

Read Ephesians 2:19-22, and 1 Peter 2:1-12. Ponder what it means that we, who trust and follow Jesus, are now together the temple of the Lord, the place where God Himself dwells by His Spirit. How should that truth impact how we value and relate to one another? When not-yet-Christians encounter the community of God's people, what are they supposed to see and experience?

An Ambition, a Building, and a _____

NEXT WEEK: *The Story of the Sacrifice | Advent Week 3*



The Story of the Temple

Various Texts

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Tim Theule

Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/groups

CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

Share a Christmas tradition your family enjoys and practices, and why you keep that tradition.

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. How did you come under God's Word in the message this week? What were personal takeaways from "The Story of the Temple"?
2. Read together Gen. 2:8-17, Ex. 40:1-3, 33-38, Mt. 1:22-23, 1 Pt. 2:4-12, and Rev. 21:1-3, 22. Ask someone brave in your group to tell "The Story of the Temple" using and connecting those texts.
3. What is the Biblical concept of TEMPLE all about? How does this concept tap into and speak to our greatest longings and the thing for which we were created?

4. Have you ever thought of the garden in Eden as a temple? How does the garden temple have a 3 part shape similar to the later wilderness temple? What was really lost when humankind disobeyed God and chose to live independent of God?

5. How does Matthew's telling of the Christmas story in Mt. 1:18-25 hyperlink back to "The Story of the Temple"?

6. How does John's very different telling of the Christmas story in John 1:1-14 also point us to "The Story of the Temple"?

7. Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-12. Where NOW is God's Temple, the place where people can meet God? How does this relate to the mission Jesus has given us? How should this impact and shape our relationships with one another?

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Praise God for "The Story of the Temple" and His indwelling presence IN us by the Spirit.
- Pray that we would see ourselves together more and more as God's Temple, and that we would faithfully "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Pt. 2:9)