

NOTES & QUESTIONS

THE ONE WHO JUDGES, THE ONE WHO HEARS

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MARK 11:11-25

Why did Jesus curse a fig tree?

Why did Jesus disrupt the temple?

Will God really do whatever I ask him?

Do I need to forgive others for God to forgive me?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

ICEBREAKER: What is something you've experienced that was hyped up, but did not deliver on the hype?

1. Why is it important to pay attention to our questions when reading the Bible? What do you do when you have questions you can't answer about a passage in the Bible?
2. Read Mark 11:11-25 out loud. Give everyone a couple of minutes in silence to make their own observations about the passage (especially themes, repeating words/ideas, truths about God, and striking details). Go around the group and share things you observed.
3. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree (11:12-14)? How is this more than just Jesus getting hangry?
4. How does this event serve as a "living parable"?
5. Why did Jesus disrupt the temple? What was going on that he objected to (11:15-18)?
6. What gives Jesus the right to judge us and our lives?
7. Why does it matter to Jesus that we bear fruit?
8. After judging the temple, why does Jesus start talking about prayer (11:22-24)?
9. How can it be true that "whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (11:24)? How does that fit with your experience?
10. What other stories or passages in the Bible put Jesus' huge claims about prayer (11:22-24) into a bigger context?
11. If God did everything you were asking him right now, what would be different in your life and the world?
12. What is the connection between forgiving others and receiving forgiveness (11:25)?

PRAYER PROMPT: What are some bold prayers you need to pray, believing that God can do what you ask? Share those needs and pray for each other with confidence.