

Connect Group Discussion Guide

SERMON DATE	SERMON SERIES	SERMON TITLE
9/05/2021	Five Vital Choices	Live like a Temple
Message on YouTube	Click on the link below and then click on the link that pops up below it to get to the message. Or, copy and paste the link below https://youtu.be/1pohlq8BGnY	

MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

This week we add the fourth vital choice to the three we've learned so far: 1) to live like an explorer, always believing that God has a purpose and promise for our lives; 2) to live like an investor, looking for ways we can make the most of every opportunity by investing our time, talent, and treasure; and 3) to live like a builder, seeking ways to leave others better than we found them.

The fourth vital choice to make as we consider how we live (Ephesians 5:15) is to live like a TEMPLE. It's either living like a TEMPLE or a TOMB. We can be life-giving or life-sucking.

The good news is that, when we put our trust in Jesus, we already are a temple. We just simply forget and go back to living like a tomb. Living like a temple means:

1. **HAVING A DEVOTED HEART.** The temple was the Father's "house." You come home out of love. It's where you belong. A TEMPLE PERSON loves God above all else.
2. **HAVING A FILLED SPIRIT.** You go to temple to offer praise and gratitude. A TEMPLE PERSON has a spirit filled with praise and gratitude.
3. **HAVING A LIFE-GIVING DISPOSITION.** And, you go to temple to find comfort in times of trouble. Life when you need it. A TEMPLE PERSON gives blessing and life to others.

We can be a temple or a tomb. We can be alive, distinctive, and inspiring life for others, becoming more like Christ, or we can rot in our selfish desires. The choice though doesn't always appear that obvious. It's an inward journey to remember what God has done and allow ourselves to be transformed by it.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past Sunday?
2. Describe someone you know who exhibits the TEMPLE PERSON characteristics (devoted to God, filled with the Spirit, and life giving/blessing others). What makes them stand out to you?
3. What are some of the things that sap your devotion to God? How does thinking about being specifically built for that purpose change the way you think about that?
4. To be filled with the Spirit is to be free from worry. Agree or disagree? How might you have experienced that?
5. What's one practical thing you can do this week to tidy up your temple?