



# The Gospel of Mark

**Group Guide:** Week 21, Mark 11:1-33

## INTRODUCTION

Conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders crescendo to a new level as Jesus enters Jerusalem and the crowds erupt in praise, celebrating and welcoming Him as King of the Jews. Jesus is challenging the leaders' authority (their religious, political and judicial authority) over God's kingdom of Israel. He's taken the conflict over God's kingdom from the countryside to the seat of power, the capital city of Jerusalem. Jesus' actions and teachings during Passover week fuel their murderous anger and hatred of Him. This leads to the final showdown that will end in Jesus' crucifixion. In the end Jesus will ultimately triumph in His resurrection.

## PRAYER

## READ

Ask one or two group members to read Mark 11:1-33.

## SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What makes you uncomfortable or surprises you about Jesus in Mark 11?*

2. In Mark 11:1-10 Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Mark 11:7-8 with Zechariah 9:9; Mark 11:9 with Psalm 118:25-26). *What do these prophecies tell us about Jesus? What misconceptions did the people have about Jesus? Can you think of any misconceptions people have about Jesus now?*

## N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 21:1-27; Luke 19:29-48

## O.T. FURTHER READING

Psalm 118:25-26; Isa. 56:7;  
Jer. 7:11; Zech. 9:9;

## FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

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3. In Mark 11:11–19 Jesus demonstrates His authority by cursing the fig tree as well as clearing or “cleansing” the temple. This is a violent picture we don’t normally associate with Jesus. *What right did Jesus have to curse the fig tree in 11:12–14 and to clear out those conducting business in the temple in 11:15–19? What right does Jesus have to confront sin in your life? (Hint: Hosea 9:10 and Luke 13:6–9, fig tree represents the nation of Israel)*

4. God had created Israel to be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:3), a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6, “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth”), and for the temple to be a house of prayer “for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7, Mark 11:17). *What had the religious leaders and power-brokers of Israel done to the temple? How had they missed God’s purpose for the temple?*

5. Read I Corinthians 6:19–20. We believers are God’s temple today. *What have you allowed in your temple (your life, your home) that is not honoring to God, hindering you from fulfilling His purpose?*

6. When the religious leaders questioned Jesus about His authority in 11:27–33, Jesus in essence “turned the tables” on them again with His question about John’s baptism. *Where are you questioning or resisting Jesus’ authority in your life?*

## NOTES

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## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 11:17–18

## RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Personal:* What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to remove from your temple (your life, your home) so you can fulfill His purpose to make you a light in your home? in your neighborhood?

*Church:* How can you and your home group encourage our missionaries who are fulfilling God’s commandment to share the Gospel around the world?

*World:* With whom is God calling you to share the Gospel this week?

**LENT READING: Isaiah 58:1–12**

## PRAY TOGETHER