

What is the Church

Sacred

Big Idea:

When faced with something sacred, it is often easier to cheapen the sacred making it more palatable and easier to accommodate. The Creator calls his people to revere the sacred things and worship him.

Thought Exercise:

- What are some ways you have seen God work in your life directly?
- What are some prayers you have seen answered in your own life?
- What does it mean when we say something is sacred?

Items for discussion:

Sacred

- Job didn't really grasp the sacred nature of God until he encountered him face to face. What are some ways in which we have lost the sacred nature of God?
- Some other examples to guide our thought and discussion:
 - Uzzah (2 Samuel 6)
 - Moses and the rock (Numbers 20)
 - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)
 - Corinthian Communion (1 Corinthians 11)

The Temple

- Compare the church with the Hebrew Temple. (2 Chron 7:1-4; Acts 2:1-4, 37-47; 1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:19-22)
- How is our interaction with others modified if we see each individual as a building block in the Temple?

Anticipation

- What is the greatest anticipation you have about what God is doing in this life and will do in the next?
- How has being self-centered affected your own work in the church? How do we battle against this temptation?

Intimacy with the Creator

- Ephesians 5:29-32
- In our culture, we are always looking for the next thing. How do we foster an awareness of exactly what we possess in the church?

Reflection

- When we become aware of how much reverence we should have toward God, how much more respect should we have for his bride, the church? (Ephesians 3:8-10)
- Do we truly love the church? Or has our presence among the body simply become a routine?

Live in the light of eternity that is coming very soon. We live with a hope and a vision for what the church on earth can be, but we also live with a very real sense of urgency.

