

WINGS OF RENEWAL week 2

From Place to Presence

**NB: Italics=Leader's notes (please delete before distributing to your Life Group)*

Warm-up: Are you a person who likes to be at home? What is it about home that you like? How many 'homes' have you lived in? Why do we have this attachment to home?

Trace the history of God's presence with the Israelites from the following verses.

1. Genesis 12:1-3
2. Exodus 2:23-24
3. Lev 9:23
4. 1 Kings 5:5
5. Temple destroyed and people in exile.
6. Haggai 1:2.

Q1: Why do you think that God changed from being present in the (portable) tabernacle to having a temple built? (Think about the difference it made to enter the promised land). What were the dangers in having God seen as static in the temple?

READ: John 2:12-22

Q2: Why did Jesus drive out the animals and money changers from the temple forecourt? What was it that angered him so much?

Q3: When questioned about his authority, Jesus made a huge statement in verse 19. This statement would be used to accuse him at his trial. Why was it such a challenge to the Jews? (Jesus equated Himself with the temple). Why is it so important for us today?

Jesus spoke of a new temple that would be incorruptible. No longer to be about a place but a PERSON.

READ John 4:23-24, 17:21-22, 2 Cor 6:16 and Ephesians 3:16-17.

Q4: In John 1:14, it says that the Word became flesh and 'tabernacled' among us. From the readings above, where is the temple of God now?

Pastor Andrew said that every significant movement of God begins with a confrontation of sin.

Q5: Have you read of any of the great revivals in the world? Is so, share that with the group. Does Pastor Andrew's statement apply to them?

One example is the Great Awakening in America. See link below.

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2016/06/5-great-american-revivals/>

Q6: Why do we find it hard to talk about sin? Why does God treat sin so seriously? Are we in danger of treating sin lightly? Romans 3:7-8.

READ: Matt 16:24-26

Q7: Thinking back to the idea of becoming too attached to our 'home'. Are there things in the church we can become too attached to? Why can this be a problem? What could we be missing out on?

Q8: How would you feel if things were dramatically changed from what we do in church today?

PRAY

God's promise is to never leave us or forsake us -to be with us because He is in us. Pray for each other to experience the presence of God in a new way.