

SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 10/20/13

Matthew 21:18-27

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

Announcements: (1) Where are you serving? and (2) Who is our “Evangelism Champion?”

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: on calling us to repent of hypocrisy that robs us of praying in faith.

Read 21.18-22. How does the fig tree incident relate to the cleansing of the temple? How does the tree with leaves but no fruit represent hypocrisy?

Where does hypocrisy most tempt us today? What helps us fight successfully against hypocrisy?

What do you make of Jesus' indication that his disciples will do even greater works by faithful prayer than the fig tree? Would you say there are any limits or restrictions on that promise? What keeps you from praying in faith about really important "mountain sized" things?

What will it look like for you to apply Jesus' teaching here and pray in faith for God to do amazing things? What is one thing that fits the restraints of passages like John 14.12-14 and 15.7 that you can begin to pray in faith to the Father about?

Read 21.23-27. Why does Jesus ask them a question about John the Baptist in return?

What is it about these leaders that makes Jesus refuse to answer them directly?

Are there areas where you think hypocrisy may be shaping your actions? What must you do to fend off that temptation?

What mountain might God have you pray about in faith that He will move? What barriers to praying in faith must you address concerning this matter?