

### The Heart of the Matter

12. If you were a tree, what would help you produce more fruit: Pruning? Watering? Staking? Transplanting? Fertilizing? Why?

13. Like the temple, no church is perfect. What have you done to make our church a better place? What could you do?

14. Like Jesus, have you ever expressed righteous anger? How did things go?

15. What amazing answer to prayer can you remember receiving? How much faith did it take?

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## Life Group Study Guide

(Life Groups Coming Fall 2017)

### True Worship, True Fruit Mark 11:12-25 For the Week of February 5, 2017

#### Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. Do you have a green thumb as a gardener or not so much?
3. How do you react when you experience something that is really frustrating or annoying? Do you try to ignore it? Attack it? Retaliate against it? Pray over it? Cry about it?

LIFE GROUP is a small group ministry of  
BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL  
Some questions adapted from: The NIV (c) Serendipity Bible, 1996, Serendipity House, and Bible Study  
Fellowship International @ [www.bsfiinternational.org](http://www.bsfiinternational.org)

### **Digging Deeper**

4. How does the fig tree relate to the cleansing of the temple? V13-14, 20-21

5. In what ways did the Pharisees cover their fruitlessness with flashy foliage in the temple courts?

6. What was really happening in verses 15-17 that relates to an inappropriate view and practice of worshipping God? On what basis was Jesus so upset?

7. This profiteering on the sale of sacrificial animals took place in the only area where Gentiles could worship. Why would that especially anger Jesus? (Isaiah 56:6-8)

8. In verse 17, who was Jesus really indicting when he cried out “But you have made it a den of robbers?” (Jeremiah 7:9-15)

9. Why was Peter so amazed when he saw the withered fig tree the next morning in verse 20-21? Should he have been so amazed?

10. In verses 22-25 what are the principles that Jesus puts forward concerning effective prayer?

11. Why is it so important that we have a heart of forgiveness toward others as we approach our heavenly Father in prayer?