

(1) Read and reflect for a moment on John 1:14. What is it about the statement that the “Word became flesh” that strikes you as profound and mysterious? Be specific as you try to envision the contrasts between the “Word” and the “flesh” of Jesus Christ.

(2) Talk among yourselves about the nature and purpose of the tabernacle, and later the Temple, in the life of the people of Israel. What role did these structures play? How important were they? What would it have meant for the people of Israel when it says in Ezekiel 11:22-23 that the “glory” of God left the Temple and “stood” on the Mount of Olives?

(3) Now read Matthew 24:1-3 and compare this passage with what you just read in Ezekiel 11. What is Jesus saying by his actions?

(4) Numerous NT texts talk about the individual Christian and the Church as a corporate body being the true temple of God, the place of his indwelling presence. What are the implications of this for how we should view ourselves today and what, if anything, we might expect God to do in the future?

(5) How does it affect your understanding of and love for Jesus to know that he is the fulfillment of all that the OT tabernacle and temple were designed to symbolize? If Jesus is the antitype, the substance, and the consummation of God’s indwelling presence on the earth, what should we say to those (you?) who believe that God will sanction the building of yet another physical temple and once again fill it with his presence?