

STUDY GUIDE

September 6, 2026

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Father, thank You for inviting us into true connection with You through Jesus. We confess that so often our faith can look like the leafy fig tree—all show, performance, and noise, but lacking real fruit and Your presence. Give us honest hearts today to examine where we are performing instead of practicing our faith. Give us the courage to let You cleanse the areas of our lives that have become distracted or corrupt. Help us drop the rocks of unforgiveness and bitterness we've been carrying, so that we can pray with bold, mountain-moving faith aligned with Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- Mark 11:1–25
- Zechariah 9:9
- Isaiah 56:7
- Jeremiah 7:11
- John 15:5–8

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. The message opened with the image of a fig tree that was "all leaves and no fruit"—all performance and no presence. Where are you most tempted to "perform" your faith or focus on appearance rather than producing real spiritual fruit?
2. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey rather than a warhorse, frustrating expectations of a political takeover. Have

you ever felt disappointed with God because He didn't answer a prayer or act in the way you expected Him to? How did you navigate that?

3. Jesus expressed holy rage when He saw worship being commercialized and marginalized people being exploited. What are some ways modern churches or individual believers risk "losing the plot" and turning a house of prayer into something God never intended?
4. The sermon clarified that mountain-moving faith isn't a formula to get what we want (like a spiritual vending machine), but alignment with God's Kingdom. What is an obstacle or "mountain" in your life right now that needs to be brought before God in prayer?
5. Jesus directly linked mountain-moving prayer with forgiving others. Why is holding onto grudges and unforgiveness incompatible with bold faith? What "rocks" of bitterness or revenge might God be asking you to drop today?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. Examine Your Leaves:

Spend time in reflection this week asking Jesus: "Where am I performing my faith instead of practicing it?" Note any areas where you rely on busyness, religious noise, or appearance, and invite the Holy Spirit to cultivate genuine fruit instead.

2. Flip a Table:

Identify anything in your personal life that has usurped God's place or corrupted your worship—such as phone distraction, chasing reputation, political idolization, or comfort. Take a concrete action step this week to drive it out and reclaim that space for prayer.

3. Speak to a Mountain & Forgive:

Identify one seemingly impossible "mountain" in your life (a broken relationship, a persistent fear, or a habit) and commit it to God in prayer. At the same time, consciously release any unforgiveness you hold toward someone else, handing justice back to God.