

# Groups Sermon Based Questions

## Ten Talks

July 27/28, 2024



### Series Overview

**Greg Hochhalter has been our Lead Pastor and primary Bible teacher since 2007, and before he steps out of the role this fall, he's retooling 10 talks from his 17 years. 10 favorites from memorable series - sermons which shaped him and the culture of our congregation. As we eagerly anticipate the next era, we revisit some of the teaching which made us who we are.**

Watch	Introduction
<a href="#">What Jesus Had in Mind</a> The sermon is up on the spac.ca website Monday of each week.	Whenever churches exchange (or return to) the 'Jesus-arrangement' for the 'temple-arrangement', they're off track.

### Engage

Scripture: John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:34-40

#### Icebreaker Questions:

1. As Greg shared, "The first church service of the Sherwood Park Allinace Church was held on April 9, 1961, in the community hall on Spruce Ave. It was cold blizzardly morning, and 42 were present." **When did you first attend SPAC? What was the story behind your coming? How did you feel, what did you experience?**
2. **Share with one another your 1-2 sentence definition on what you believe is the primary role of the church in todays world.**

#### Study

**Context:** Greg revisits a message series that he did, after returning from sabbatical in 2017. The focus was on contrasting ancient religious systems with the new covenant of grace introduced by Jesus. Ancient religions emphasized sacred spaced, holy texts, and special men who interpreted these texts, leading to anxious and guilt-ridden followers. In contrast, Jesus simplified the Jewish laws to 'Love God and love your neighbour', which taught, "What does love require of me?" Early Christians embraced this, crossing cultural, racial, and gender boundaries, creating a powerful, hospitable, and loving movement. However, like the early church, we tend to revert to old practices, hindering our effectiveness. This message reminds us that returning to the old practices (Temple arrangement) derails us... and we need to return to Jesus' original vision (Jesus' arrangement).

### Temple vs Jesus Arrangement:

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##### TEMPLE FOCUSES:

- SACRED SPACES
- HOLY TEXTS
- SPECIAL MEN
  
- ANXIOUS FOLLOWERS

##### JESUS FOCUS:

- SACRED PERSON(S)
- ONE DECREE (JOHN 13:34)
- SIMPLE ETHIC (WHAT DOES LOVE REQUIRE OF ME?)
- IRRESISTIBLE MOVEMENT

1. **Greg talked about the different between the temple arrangement vs Jesus arrangement. Where do you witness 'temple arrangement' within our church and in your own walk with Jesus? Are there aspects of this arrangement that we should guard against or keep? Why or why not?**

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2. With what you can recall historically or experientially, compare the early days of SPAC with our current state. What are some benefits and challenges of the way we do church today compared to the past? What have we gained that is positive and what do you grieve?
3. On the flip side, where are you seeing the Jesus arrangement demonstrated within our church, and your own walk with Jesus?
4. Where do you see our church today align with what Jesus had in mind for His followers and the early church? Where or how do you think we (you and I) could have an impact in creating and cultivating the things that we are missing? How can it align with our current vision of 'Belong & Become deeply rooted followers of Jesus'?
5. What do you think are the main reasons people are de-committing or leaving the church today? What part as a church can we play in making His church irresistible again? Do you feel like it is dependant on the 'Jesus arrangement', prayer, programs, catering to the deconstructing, to the flock/believers, etc.?

### Read John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:34-40

6. What are your initial thoughts, encouragement, affirmations, curiosities, or difficulties do you have with these passages in-light of the earlier discussion (Temple vs Jesus arrangement)?

### Reflection and Prayer

1. Take a moment and invite Holy Spirit to ask you the question, "What does love require of you today/this week?"

Pray for one another.

## Prayer and Care

Take note of a prayer request for each member in your group.

You can request prayer any time at [spac.ca/prayerrequest](http://spac.ca/prayerrequest)

We have a Care Ministry and pastoral team at Sherwood Park Alliance to walk alongside people through life's challenges. Should anyone in your group experience a significant illness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, etc. and they've given you permission to share, please contact the church office 780-467-8404.

Pastor on call (after hours): 780-467-8404 and follow prompts.