



HEART FOR THE HOUSE

Part 11: #PRESENCE

Sermon Small Group Questions

Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Lives flourish in God's presence. We will make a place for people to experience Him. #PRESENCE

[Genesis 3.8, ESV]

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and [Adam] and his **wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.***

Life outside of His presence is only about survival.

[Genesis 4.16, ESV]

Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

[Revelation 21.3-4, NLT]

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. **God himself will be with them.** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*

[Hebrews 10.19-22a, NLT]

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, **let us go right into the presence of God** with sincere hearts fully trusting him.*

[Psalm 73, NLT] "David's Blues"

*Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant **when I saw** the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?" This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your*

children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

When you disconnect from His presence, the light grows dim.

Principles for His Presence

- 1. Repent (return to His presence) [Acts 3.19-20]**
- 2. Feed your God-given desire for His presence [Psalm 27.4]**
- 3. Be intentional; make a place for His presence [Psalm 22.3]**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Who are some people whose presence make such a difference to you? What about them is important to you?**
- 2. Describe a time when you felt like you were either literally or figuratively "aimlessly wandering." How did you get there? How did you find your way?**
- 3. Why do you think it's so important to rehearse what God has already done in your life? What does that do for your faith, your perspective, and your confession?**
- 4. What are ways that you can feed your God-given desires? What are some substitutes that you might need to get rid of?**
- 5. What does it look like to make a place for God in your life daily?**