

**Greater**  
**Part 1: The Road to Greater**



Sermon Small Group Questions  
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

- 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. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

### The Road to Greater

How do we get on the road to greater? Jesus calls us to it...

[John 14:12 NIV84]

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do **even greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.*

How can we out "great", Jesus? Its not that we would do more amazing things than him but that, exponentially, we would reach even more people spreading the good news across the earth.

The church of the New Testament was dispersed over the face of the earth and they, through the power of the Holy Spirit, accomplished great things and increased The Kingdom of God through the Good News of Christ.

The Road To Greater = an expanding, fulfilling, God inspired, effective, no regrets life.

## MESSAGE

### 1. The road to "greater" begins and continues in Christ.

[Ephesians 3: 8-21 MSG]

*And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!*

*All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!*

*My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.*

*God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.*

*Glory to God in the church!  
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!  
Glory down all the generations!  
Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!*

Two Ditches to avoid on the road to greater

1. The ditch of miserable mediocrity: just getting by... that's good enough just muddling through this life God has blessed you with.
2. The ditch of self promoted greatness.

The world says you can be anything you want to be... However it's not long before we realize that this isn't true, however in Christ there is a dream He has for us that is greater than our current status. We can be all Christ has called us to be, it is not impossible to archive Gods Greatness within us.

## **2. The road to "greater" requires serving others**

Jesus displayed this as he washed his disciples feet. He set the bar for greatness by stooping down and cleaning the feet of those who followed him.

When was the last time you served someone who didn't deserve it and in doing so increased in greatness?

## **3. The road to "greater" always requires small beginnings**

Even Christ began as a baby requiring his parents protection and sustenance while, for the first few years of his life, he had a death sentence placed on him and his parents had to keep him hidden. Only to become the Savior of the universe.

After 70 years of captivity the children of Israel were released to go home and a man by the name of Zerubbabel who is called to rebuild the Temple of God.

[Zechariah 4:6-10 NLT]

*Then he said to me, "This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel's way; it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: 'May God bless it! May God bless it!'"*

It's easy to shout when the job is done, after the work the sweat the tears but look what God says about the beginning.

*Then another message came to me from the LORD: "Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Heaven's Armies has sent me. Do not despise these small beginnings, **for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin**, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."*

God rejoices in what you begin not just what you complete.

There are some small things you have despised and God wants you to stay faithful to those small things he has begun in you.

It is easy to be deliberate with what you don't have, " If I had a million dollars I would..." God is not interested in what you would do with what you don't have, but is very interested in what you will do with what he has already given you. God wants to make you greater as you obey His voice.

What will you do with the little you have?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is something more that you long for in your life in Christ?**
- 2. Where do you find your sense of fulfillment?**
- 3. How do we avoid the ditches of "miserable mediocrity" and "self-promoted greatness?" Who is speaking into your life, steering you in the Holy Spirit's direction?**
- 4. What God-given gifts are you pursuing in your life?**
- 5. Why is serving others such a key to the Greater that God has in store for us?**
- 6. What are some defining small beginnings that had set you up on the "road to greater?"**

**7. What are some "on-ramps" right now that you can take to get back on God's highway for your full potential? What is in your possession?**