



Pastor Dave Patterson
THE POWER OF CHURCH
Part 3: The Power of Worshiping Together

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.

[Acts 1.14-15]

They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them.

[Acts 2.1-4]

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

[Acts 2.42]

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer.

Worship = to attribute worth to someone/thing; we become like what we worship

The Westminster Larger Catechism: *Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever.*

The Power of God is most likely to flow when we gather together.

[Acts 1.14-15; 2.1, 42]

*They all met together and were constantly **united** (homothymadon) in **prayer** (proseuche: prayer/worship), along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the*

roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

Unity is when we resonate together.

Nothing unifies a people more than song.

Why We Should Worship WITH the Church AT Church:

1. You Have a River.

[John 7.38]

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

[Psalm 46.4]

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

It is when we each release our river of worship, that a MIGHTY river of worship is created that carries and releases POWER in the Church!

2. You Need the River.

When you are going through hell, come to where heaven meets earth.

3. The River is Bigger than We Know.

[Ezekiel 47.1-9]

In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway. Measuring as he went, he took me along the stream for 1,750 feet and then led me across. The water was up to my ankles. He measured off another 1,750 feet and led me across again. This time the water was up to my knees. After another 1,750 feet, it was up to my waist. Then he measured another 1,750, and the river was too deep to walk across. It was deep enough to swim in, but too deep to walk through. He asked me, "Have you been watching, son of man?" Then he led me back along the riverbank. When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this rivers flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows.

The River:

- 1. Flows from the House of God (NOT the living room, car, or Starbucks)**
- 2. Is released *through* praise/worship**
- 3. Brings dead things to life**
- 4. Makes whatever it touches FLOURISH**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think about the statement, "You become like what you worship"?
2. How do we "enthroned God on our praises?" What are some practical things we can do daily to achieve this?
3. What does it mean for you to "enjoy God?" What does that look like in your life, or in your family's culture?
4. When we, as individuals, don't release the river of worship in us, how does it affect the collective river of the church?
5. Where do you go, or what places, are easiest for you to release the river of worship? Are you prioritizing getting there? If not, what needs to change?