

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**"Building the House of God"**

**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.

***God is raising up leaders for the House of God as we take ground in the natural and the spiritual. He has real estate laid out for us.***

**[Ezra 1.5]**

*"...Everyone whose heart God had moved--prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem."*

***Even when you're in self-imposed captivity, God fulfills a promise. Even the seed of captivity is fruit that will remain.***

***When God bring you out, He doesn't leave you in the wilderness. He leads you OUT to take you IN.***

## **Building the House of God Parallels**

- 1. The building of the walls and the temple were in the heart of God long before the first foundation stone was laid.**
- 2. The temple was a structure and piece of real estate that was designated/set apart for the gathering of the worshippers and the very presence of the Living God.**
- 3. The temple would be an unavoidable landmark and place of beauty and strength in the city.**
- 4. The building of the temple faced delays and opposition yet was accomplished as God's leaders stepped out in faith and God's people committed to build.**
- 5. The building of the wall and the temple were ultimately not about the structure but the spiritual legacy and future of the people!**

**Zerubbabel** = The builder and leader

**Nehemiah** = The phase 2 builder and leader

**Ezra** = The leader and Prophetic Voice

**Haggai** = The prophet

**Zechariah** = The prophet

## **Three Things We are a Part of Today**

- 1. The great things God builds start with small seeds, promises, and humble beginnings.**

***God rejoices from the beginning.***

## **[Zechariah 4.10]**

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand. (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)*

**2. Resistance and sacrifice are always a part of building something great.**

## **[Haggai 2.4-5]**

*But now the LORD says: 'Be strong, Zerubbabel,...Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.'*

## **[Nehemiah 4.14]**

*Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember The Lord, who is great and glorious, and **fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!**"*

*The Joy of what you have built will remain long after the pain of temporary sacrifice is forgotten. - Wendell Smith*

## **[Zechariah 4.6-7]**

*"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!'*

### **3. Building a great future requires seeing what God sees.**

**[Zechariah 4.1-2]**

*Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "**What do you see?**"*

**[Nehemiah 6.16]**

*When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard the work was complete, only one possible conclusion could be drawn: it was not just our efforts that had done this thing. **God had been working alongside us.***

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- **What are some precious seeds (from humble beginnings) that God deposited years ago in you that are now seeing growth and fruit today?**
- **What resistance have you experienced in the delays of fulfillment of God's words coming to pass in your life? How did you respond?**
- **Who in your life (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.) are you fighting for them to know The Lord?**
- **When you consider the building of this church, 'What do you see?' In other words, what lives, situations, and influence do you imagine?**