



**Heart for the House – The River  
Pastor Rich Harris | 03.24.2024**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

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. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***"Worship, the moving of the Holy Spirit and divine encounters are the highest priorities for this house. We truly believe that one moment in the presence of God can change anything and everything."***

- Pastor Dave Patterson, Heart for the House

**[Genesis 2:8-10, ESV]**

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden...

### **[Revelation 21:3, NIV]**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

### **[Revelation 22:1-2, ESV]**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

### **[Psalm 1:1-3, ESV]**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

### **[Psalm 92:12-15, ESV]**

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

## **3 Ways to Experience the River**

### **1. Turn Towards It (Repentance)**

#### **[Acts 3:19, NIV]**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

### **2. Enter Into It (Thanksgiving and Praise)**

#### **[Psalm 100:4, ESV]**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**[Psalm 145:21, ESV]**

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord.

**3. Let It Flow (Join Your Praise with Our Praise)**

**[1 Corinthians 6:19, ESV]**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

**[John 7:38-39, ESV]**

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit

**[Psalm 46:4, ESV]**

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

## **Key Points:**

1. Turn Towards it (Repentance)
2. Enter Into It (Thanksgiving and Praise)
3. Let It Flow (Join Your Praise with Our Praise)

## **Application for the Week:**

Are you getting enough water for your soul? This week, ask God to show you areas in your life that you need to repent. Turn towards God, give Him Thanksgiving and Praise, and step back into the River of God.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. When and where did you first encounter God's presence? How did that moment in His presence impact you?
2. How does God prosper our souls?
3. What are some obstacles we all face to remaining in the River of God?
4. Where are places where you can easily experience the river of worship?
5. What do you do when you need access to the river, but all you have is yourself?
6. What practices refresh your soul and help you to thrive? **(See Key Points)**
7. How are thanksgiving and praise keys to worship? [Psalm 100:4] When have you intentionally chosen them when you didn't feel like praising and giving thanks?
8. If we are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, what does it look like for you to personally carry the river?



## **H4TH BOOK: QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT**

### **Chapter 1 – WHY WE EXIST**

- What is the Mission of The Father's House? (Page 15)
- What does it look like for you personally to be on mission for Jesus?
- How does your life calling, goals, talents, and gifts align with the "Great Commission" Jesus spoke about in Matthew 28-18-20?
- How can you purposely align your heart with The Father's House mission?

### **Chapter 2 – VISION: THE CHURCH WE SEE**

- What is the Vision of The Father's House? (Page 22)
- How have you personally experienced the vision of TFH?
- Pastor Dave wrote about the church he sees. (Pages 25- 27). What points resonated and grabbed your attention? Why?
- How can you purposely align your heart with The Father's House vision?

### **Chapter 3 – LOCAL CHURCH: IT'S A BIG DEAL**

- What stood out the most to you from this chapter?
- How does God build His church through you and me?
- If the Church is a big deal to Jesus, why should the church be a big deal to us?

### **Chapter 4 – BELONG**

- Do you believe the community the early church found can be replicated today? Why or why not?
- Have you experienced genuine authenticity with a group or another individual? If yes, how did that experience help your spiritual growth?
- What benefits have you experienced being committed and connected to a TFH group?

### **Chapter 5 – PRESENCE**

- What stood out the most to you from this chapter?
- There are three keys to living your life in the presence of God:
  1. Repentance, 2. Feed your God-given desire for His presence, and
  3. Be intentional about making a place for His presence. How have you seen God's presence increase in your life when you applied these three keys?
- God's presence changes everything. How can you make your home a place where the presence of God will abide? (Page 74)

## **Chapter 6 – GROW**

- Pastor Dave said, "You cannot survive in the spirit if you do not have a steady diet of the Word of God." Why is it important to be in the Word of God each day?
- Our faith is directly connected to the Bible. How can you grow in faith, grace, and victory? (Page 79 - 83)
- What practical steps must you take to have an "always lifestyle"? Always hearing, reading, and going deeper in the Word of God. (Page 84 – 86)
- Have you gotten sidetracked or become stagnant in pursuing God's Word? What next step do you need to take to grow and go deeper in God's Word?

## **Chapter 7 – GENEROSITY**

- How have you been impacted by someone's radical generosity?
- The Bible has verse after verse that speaks to how God is committed to resourcing the "resourcers." How have you personally experienced this in your life?
- Generosity goes far beyond giving our money, and it is not a financial position; it is a heart condition. How can we be more generous with what we have (resources, time, talents, and more)?

## **Chapter 8 – EXCELLENCE**

- What stood out the most to you from this chapter?
- Think about a time when you experienced excellence, which made a lasting impression on you. How did that experience impact you?
- What does excellence look like in your life, and where can you see yourself moving from mediocrity to excellence?
- How does bringing our best reflect the nature and character of God to the world around us?

## **Chapter 9 – OUR CITY**

- Actions speak louder than words. How can we show the tangible love of Jesus to our city?

- What does faith look like in the public? How is serving others tied to living a life of faith?
- Invest your most precious commodity, your time, to serve the “least of these” and help reveal Jesus to a hurting world. Have you found a place to serve?

### **Chapter 10 – GO**

- What stood out the most to you from this chapter?
- Have you been involved in a local or global Impact Trip where you crossed cultural barriers and economic classes, leaving your comfort zone and entering your faith zone? Briefly share what that was like.
- Jesus said, “Go.” Have you considered partnering with Global Reach or going on an Impact Trip to another nation?
- **\*For More Information, direct your group members to [www.tfh.org/globalreach](http://www.tfh.org/globalreach)**

### **Chapter 11 – ENJOY THE JOURNEY**

- Take a moment to reflect; Selah: Am I enjoying the journey of my life?
- Have each group member make a list of things that bring them joy and a list of things that might be stealing their joy.
- What adjustments and changes do you need to make in order to enjoy the journey of your life?

### **Chapter 12 – SUPPORTING THE HOUSE**

- What stood out the most to you from this chapter?
- Have you ever received a blessing on the other side of giving?
- What is something you have been believing for? Could it be possible that tithing is a key to your breakthrough?
- **Information on 90-Day-Tithe-Challenge can be found at: <https://www.tfh.org/tithechallenge>**

### **Chapter 13 – MEMBERSHIP: THE CHURCH I WANT TO JOIN**

- In what ways can you use your God-given talents and gifts to contribute as part of the Body of Christ?

- Leaders: Encourage your members to sign up for Discover if they haven't already done so. Consider attending with them to make that transition easier.
- **Information on Discover and registration can be found at:**  
<https://www.tfh.org/discover>