

Pastor Dave Patterson
Ephesians Part 3—Heaven Touches Earth
1.24.2021

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.

[Ephesians 1:17-18]

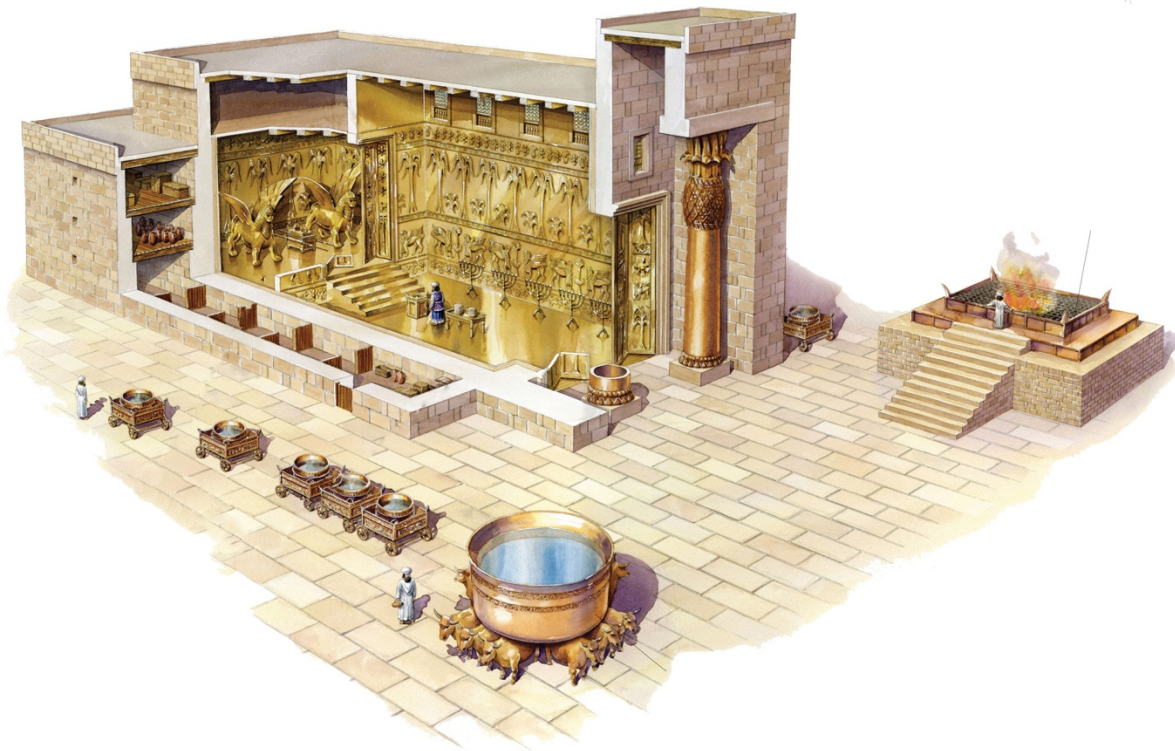
He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. **Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**

[Ephesians 2:19-22]

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **Together, we are his house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, **becoming a holy temple for the Lord**. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of **this dwelling where God lives** by his Spirit.

We are all in a process of becoming who God has meant for us to be.





In the presence of God, idols are exposed, sickness is healed, and there is fullness of joy.

Don't ever let someone condescend your experience with God because it was emotional; God has made you an emotional being!

Heaven touches earth when:

1. We are connected and contributing.

**“We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple”
(vs 21)**

Church is not a spectator event. We are built together for strength and support. Someone else is leaning on you.

Heaven touches earth when:

2. We carry a God-given vision and passion for His House.

[John 2:17]

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: **Zeal for God's house** will consume me.”

(**Zeal** / passion jealousy = intensity)

There is a place for righteous anger, zeal, and intensity. Jesus' zeal for God's house was perfect, holy, and righteous indignation.

One of God's names is Jealous: He is very protective about what belongs to Him.

[Mark 11:17]

He said to them, “**The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.**”

Jesus saw the original intent and design in Heaven for the Temple of God and with zeal came to build it here on earth.

[Hebrews 8:1-2,5]

Here is the main point: We have a High Priest (*JESUS*) who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands.

They (*the priest*) serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.”

[Romans 12:11]

Never be lacking in zeal (*passion & jealousy*), but keep your **spiritual fervor**, serving the Lord.

(Fervor, Greek = to boil water, to get hot and stay hot)

***When we are lacking in zeal and fervor, the boil becomes a simmer.
We're calling you back to a passion for His House!***

Heaven touches earth when:

3. We come into His presence with true worship.

FOR MONDAY –

1. Consider the imagery of the Temple and why each component has its role.
2. Decide what you personally can do to make it easier for people to access the presence of Jesus.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some things in our culture that have great influence or worldwide renown?
2. What images often come to mind for non-churchgoers when you invite them to church? What makes it difficult for them to come into His presence?
3. Where are some sacred spaces, where heaven touches earth for you personally? When have you experienced a tangible atmosphere shift? What made the difference?
4. Why do you think some only connect with God on an intellectual OR an emotional level? Ultimately, why is it important to experience the Lord with all of who we are?
5. How is your zeal level for God's House lately? How does it compare to all your other passions and desires? Check out Romans 12.11. What are some strategies to protect your fervor and zeal?
6. In the 21st Century, do you think we've turned the Church into anything other than God's design or heart for it? In the middle of this reset time, what will cause heaven to touch earth?
7. How are we built together as a living temple? What results relationally when we each take our place? Who is leaning on you for strength and support?
8. What does it look like to step in as a true worshipper? How does David's Tabernacle reflect the heart of God?