

# Small Group Bible Study Guide

## The House That God Is Building

*Based on Sunday Sermon - June 1, 2025*

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### For the Small Group Leader

**Welcome, Leader!** This guide is designed to help you facilitate a meaningful discussion, whether you're an experienced leader or stepping in to help. Simply follow the flow, read the questions aloud, and let the Holy Spirit guide your group's conversation.

**Preparation Time:** 10-15 minutes reading through this guide **Group Time:** 60-90 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Bibles, this study guide, paper/pens (optional)

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## Opening (10 minutes)

### Welcome & Prayer

*Leader: Begin with this simple opening*

"Welcome everyone! We're gathering to dive deeper into Sunday's message about 'The House That God Is Building.' Let's start by asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds."

**Opening Prayer:** *(Pray this or use your own)* "Father, thank You for bringing us together. Just as You want to build us into Your house, help us to be open to what You want to teach us tonight. Speak to our hearts through Your Word and through one another. In Jesus' name, Amen."

### Ice Breaker

Choose one of these to help people settle in:

- "What's one thing about your home that makes you feel most at peace?"
  - "If you could build your dream house anywhere, where would it be and why?"
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## Review & Reflect (15 minutes)

### Sermon Recap

*Leader: Read this summary aloud or ask someone else to read it*

Pastor Reuben shared that God is building us into His house - not a physical building, but a spiritual community. He highlighted three key aspects of the house God is building:

1. **A House of Rest and Refreshing** (like the 70 palm trees at Elim)
2. **A House of Prayer for All Nations** (Mark 11:17)
3. **A House United in Diversity** (John 17)

The pastor emphasized that unity comes through gratitude, faith, and humility, and that we're called to love people as they are while trusting God to transform them.

### Initial Reflection

- "What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?"
  - "Was there something that particularly encouraged or challenged you?"
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## Digging Deeper (25-30 minutes)

### Scripture Study

**Read Together: Exodus 15:27** *"Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters."*

### Discussion Questions:

1. The Israelites had just left Mara, where the waters were bitter. How does this parallel our own journey from difficult places to God's place of rest?
2. Pastor Reuben mentioned that eagles soar without flapping by resting on the wind currents. How can we learn to "rest in God's Spirit" rather than striving in our own strength?

**Read Together: Mark 11:17** *"Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'?"*

**Discussion Questions:** 3. Jesus said His house should be "for all nations." Look around your daily life - your workplace, neighborhood, or even your apartment's guard house. Who are the "nations" God has placed in your path?

4. Pastor Reuben emphasized honoring people regardless of their job or status. Share about a time when someone showed you unexpected honor or respect. How did it impact you?

**Read Together: John 17:20-21** *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

**Discussion Questions:** 5. Jesus prayed for unity among believers so "that the world may believe." How does disunity in the church affect non-believers' perception of Christ?

6. The pastor talked about "unity in diversity" - like a rainbow or a musical harmony. What unique gifts or perspectives do you bring to our church family?
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## Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

### Three Keys to Unity

*Leader: Work through these one at a time*

#### 1. Unity of Gratitude

- Pastor Reuben said, "Every area of complaint has a hidden blessing."
- **Question:** What's one situation you've been complaining about? Can you identify a hidden blessing in it?
- **Challenge:** This week, when you're tempted to complain, first rehearse three things you're grateful for.

#### 2. Unity of Faith

- Isaiah 43:18-19 tells us to forget former things and look for God's new thing.
- **Question:** Is there a past hurt or offense you need to let go of to move forward in faith?
- **Encourage:** You don't have to share details, but consider if God is calling you to forgive someone this week.

#### 3. Unity of Humility

- The pastor said, "It's more important to love than to be right all the time."

- **Question:** Think of a recent conflict or tension. How might humility change your approach?
  - **Challenge:** Be the first to say "I'm sorry" when you've reacted wrongly, even if you weren't the one who started it.
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## Prayer & Ministry Time (15-20 minutes)

### Group Prayer

*Leader: Use this structure for group prayer*

**Step 1: Gratitude (5 minutes)** "Let's start by thanking God for His faithfulness. Share one thing you're grateful for - either something He's done or a person He's placed in your life."

**Step 2: Faith (5 minutes)** "Now let's pray in faith for the 'new things' God wants to do. Share one area where you need to trust God for something new or for breakthrough."

**Step 3: Unity (5-10 minutes)** "Finally, let's pray for unity in our church and for the 'nations' in our daily lives. Pray for people God has placed in your path who need to know His love."

*Leader: Close with this prayer or similar* "Father, thank You for building us into Your house. Help us to be a place of rest for the weary, a house of prayer for all nations, and a united family that shows Your love to the world. May Your presence be evident in us and through us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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## This Week's Action Steps

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to:

1. **Rest Practice:** When you feel stressed or striving this week, stop and ask, "How can I rest in God's Spirit rather than my own effort?"
2. **Nation Vision:** Pray for one specific person from another culture/background in your daily life (security guard, colleague, neighbor, service worker).
3. **Unity Builder:** Reach out to someone in your church family - especially someone different from you - and express gratitude for them.

4. **Complaint Transformation:** Each time you catch yourself complaining, immediately follow it with naming two things you're grateful for.
  5. **Humility Practice:** If there's a relationship tension, be the first to humble yourself and take responsibility for your part.
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## For Next Week

### Optional Reading:

- Ephesians 2:19-22 (We are God's household)
- 1 Peter 2:4-10 (Living stones being built into a spiritual house)

**Group Challenge:** This week, each person invite someone new to church or to our small group. Remember, we love people as they are and trust God to transform them through relationship.

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### Leader's Closing Notes

- **If someone shares a deep need:** Offer to pray for them after the group or connect them with pastoral care.
- **If discussion gets off track:** Gently guide back with, "That's a great point. How does that connect to being the house God is building?"
- **If someone dominates conversation:** "Thank you for sharing. Let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet."
- **If someone seems withdrawn:** Don't force participation, but check in privately after the group.

**Remember:** Your job isn't to have all the answers - it's to create space for the Holy Spirit to work and for people to grow together in community.

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*"The house that the Lord is building... The real house is you and me." - Pastor Reuben*