



# SMALL GROUP LESSON

## Small Group Guide: Run to the Mercy Seat

**Summary:** This sermon walks through the Old Testament tabernacle as a prophetic picture of Jesus and the believer's journey—salvation at the cross, cleansing, fellowship, life in the Spirit, prayer, and finally intimate access to God's presence in the "Holy of Holies." This sermon urges the church not to stop at initial salvation but to press deeper into the fullness of the Holy Spirit, committed community, and confident, condemnation-free nearness to God.

### Key Takeaways

1. **God's desire is intimacy** - The tabernacle was God's way of showing humanity how to approach Him and dwell with Him.
2. **Jesus is the way** - Every element of the tabernacle points to Jesus Christ as the only path to relationship with God.
3. **We have full access** - Under the New Covenant, believers are priests with complete access to God's presence.
4. **There's always more** - God continually invites us deeper into relationship, beyond salvation to transformation.
5. **Community is essential** - We cannot fully experience God while isolating ourselves from His family.

### Discussion Questions:

#### The Altar of Sacrifice (The Cross)

1. Why do you think many Christians stop at the cross and don't go deeper? What holds people back?
2. How often do you reflect on and thank Jesus for His sacrifice? How can we make this a more regular practice?

#### The Bronze Laver (Baptism & Cleansing)

1. What role does the "washing of water with the Word" play in your daily life? How does Scripture help you identify and repent from sin?
2. Are there areas in your life right now where you need to come to the fountain for cleansing?

#### The Table of Bread (Fellowship)

1. The pastor said, "If you don't love people, you don't love God." How does this challenge your view of church and Christian community?
2. Why do you think so many Christians prefer "just me and Jesus" over being part of a faith community?

#### The Lampstand (The Holy Spirit)

1. The sermon described seven aspects of the Holy Spirit's work (new birth, power, prayer, unity, teaching, comfort, refining). Which of these do you most need in your life right now?
2. Have you ever asked God for "more" of the Holy Spirit? What happened?

### **The Altar of Incense (Prayer & Worship)**

1. The pastor said your prayers are "a sweet smelling aroma" to God. Does this change how you view your prayer life?
2. How can we develop a more consistent practice of praise and prayer in our daily lives?

### **The Holy of Holies (God's Glory)**

1. What does it mean to you personally that the veil has been torn and you have unlimited access to God's presence?
2. The pastor mentioned walking through each station during his morning prayer time. How might this practice deepen your own prayer life?

## **Practical Application**

### **This Week's Challenge**

*Choose one of the following to practice this week:*

#### **Option 1: The Tabernacle Prayer Walk Each morning, intentionally pray through each station:**

- Altar: Thank Jesus for His sacrifice
- Laver: Confess sin and receive cleansing
- Table: Pray for your spiritual family
- Lampstand: Ask for more of the Holy Spirit
- Incense: Offer praise and intercession
- Holy of Holies: Rest in God's presence

**Option 2: Community Connection:** Reach out to at least three people from your church family this week. Have a meal together, pray together, or simply encourage one another.

**Option 3: Holy Spirit Hunger:** Spend time each day this week specifically asking God for more of the Holy Spirit. Journal what He shows you.

**Option 4: Break Isolation:** If you've been isolating yourself from Christian community, take one concrete step toward connection (join a small group, attend a church event, be vulnerable with someone).

