


# House Party – Part 8

**Pastor Ron Carpenter, Jr. | Discussion Guide**

## The House of God

God didn't create us to live as outsiders or walk through life alone. Through Jesus, we have access to the Father, a place in His family, and a purpose in His house. The house of God is more than a building. It's a people being built together to become a dwelling place for His presence on earth.

Every person has a gift and a place in the body of Christ. Some roles are visible, while others happen behind the scenes, but every part matters. God has prepared good works for us to walk in, and He can use even our difficult seasons to prepare us for what He has called us to do. As we learn to see life from a heavenly perspective, we can trust Christ's authority over the things that have held us back and step into the purpose He has for us.

## OPEN IN PRAYER

Ask God to help everyone see themselves as valued members of His family, recognize the gifts He has given them, and understand how they can serve His purpose.

## ICEBREAKER

Have you ever been part of a team where everyone had a different role, but each role was important to the team's success? What made that team work well?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. You Belong in the House**

*Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and Genesis 28:16-17.*

Pastor Ron reminded us that we are no longer strangers or outsiders. We are members of God's family, being built together as a place for His presence.

- What does it mean to you to know that you belong in God's house rather than stand on the outside looking in?
- Pastor Ron described the house of God as a "gate of heaven," where people's lives can be changed by encountering God's presence. Have you experienced a moment when God's presence changed your perspective or circumstances?
- What might change in the way you approach church if you saw it as more than a weekly service?

**2. Living From a Heavenly Perspective**

*Read Ephesians 1:20-23 and Ephesians 2:4-10.*

Through Jesus, we have been made alive with Him and raised up with Him. Pastor Ron challenged us to see life from a different perspective, remembering that Christ is above every power and authority.

- What is the difference between knowing about God's power and actually living with confidence in Him?
- Is there a struggle, negative cycle, or circumstance that has been shaping the way you see yourself or your future? How might these Scriptures help you see it differently?
- Pastor Ron said, “God is not getting stuff ready for you. God is getting you ready for the stuff.” How might God use a difficult season to grow you or prepare you for something ahead?

**3. You Have a Place and a Purpose**

*Read Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.*

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Just as a body needs many different parts, the body of Christ needs people with different gifts and abilities.

- What gifts, abilities, or experiences has God given you that could be used to help others?
- Have you ever compared your role or gifts with someone else's and felt like yours mattered less? What does this passage teach us about that?
- What is one way you could use what God has given you to serve someone or meet a need in your church or community?

**4. Every Part Matters**

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27.*

Pastor Ron reminded us that the parts of the body that are less visible are often the ones we couldn't function without. The work happening behind the scenes is just as important as the work everyone sees.

- Why do you think we tend to notice and celebrate visible roles more than behind-the-scenes service?
- Who has faithfully served or supported you in a way that may have gone unnoticed? How could you show them appreciation?
- What happens when we believe we don't need others, or when we assume our contribution doesn't matter?

**5. Making Room for Your Gift**

*Read John 14:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 12:18-27.*

Pastor Ron connected Jesus' words about the Father's house with the place He was making for us in His body. God has a place for us, and He brings our different gifts together so we can serve His purpose.

- What might be keeping someone from stepping into the place God has for them?
- How can we help others discover their gifts and feel that they belong?
- What is one step you can take this week to move from simply attending church to actively participating in what God is doing?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Take time this week to identify one gift, ability, or experience God has given you and one practical way you can use it to serve someone else. If you've been holding back because you feel unqualified, overlooked, or unsure of your place, ask God to help you take one step forward in faith.

## GROUP CHALLENGE

As a Life Group, identify one practical need in your church, neighborhood, or community that you can meet together. Choose a specific action and make a plan to follow through. Look for ways to encourage one another's gifts, especially those that may go unnoticed.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for making us part of Your family and giving each of us a place in Your house. Help us see ourselves and others the way You do. Give us a heavenly perspective when life feels overwhelming, and help us trust Your power over the struggles we face. Show us the gifts You've placed in us and give us the courage to use them. Teach us to value every member of Your body and work together in unity so that others can experience Your love and presence through us. In Jesus' name, amen.

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