



SERMON

SMALL GROUPS

“The Cause within You”
Speaker: Pastor Matthew Barnett

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 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. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 - ◆ one section of questions
 - ◆ one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone’s growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, “I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer.” It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, “How are you going to begin?” An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.



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About Pastor Matthew & The Dream Center:

Matthew Barnett, author of the New York Times Best Seller, *The Cause within You*, and pastor of one of America's fastest growing churches, is one of the most dynamic voices God is using in Christianity today. At the age of 37, he is fulfilling the roles of people who have been in the ministry for years. Son of Pastor Tommy Barnett, best-selling author, church growth pioneer, and pastor of what *Time Magazine* noted as "One of the three largest churches in America," Pastor Matthew has learned powerful principles of ministry, which have gifted him in founding The Dream Center in Los Angeles.

The Dream Center began as a typical local church. With the fresh vision and desire to impact the entire city that God birthed in Matthew's heart, the church grew from 39 members at its conception in September of 1994, to reaching more than 35,000 people each week in the Center's multiple services and 273 ministries and outreaches today. The Dream Center houses close to 500 people who are being rehabilitated for the glory of God. Every week people receive food and many other services are offered to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the community. As of April 2002, there have been over 130 Dream Centers launched around the world.

Introduction

How do you discover the cause within you? Spend your life using whatever God puts in you hand, loving whatever God puts in your hand, and valuing whatever God puts in your hand. Even in the face of obstacles, push past the hurdles. As Pastor Matthew Barnett said, "When God gives you a dream, you gotta go gangster sometimes." You will never know what is buried deep inside of you, until you start living for a dream bigger than you!



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The Bible is full of passages that address the importance and process of finding the cause within you. Listed below are some of the passages that have been helpful to Pastor Matthew Barnett. Each passage stands on its own, yet reading all of these, from the first to the last, can be an informative and motivating journey in itself! Take a few minutes to read the passages, reflecting on their relevance to your life and thinking about what God is saying to you.

[1 Samuel 10:20-23]

When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. So they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?" And the Lord said, "Yes, he has hidden ¹⁹³the cause within you himself among the baggage." They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. (NIV)

[Proverbs 1:7]

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Key Scripture:

[Proverbs 3:5-7]

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. (NIV)

[Proverbs 29:18]

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. (NIV)



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[Isaiah 1:17]

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.

[Isaiah 55:8-9]

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (NIV)

[Jeremiah 17:9]

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (NIV)

[Jeremiah 29:11-13]

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

[Matthew 6:33-34]

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

[Matthew 7:12]

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (NIV)

[Matthew 11:28-30]

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (NIV)



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[Matthew 12:30-31]

He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. (NIV)

[Matthew 19:26]

With God everything is possible.

[Matthew 23:11-12]

The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

[Matthew 25:21]

The master was full of praise. “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”

[Luke 5:10-11]

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (NIV)

[Luke 12:48]

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

[Luke 16:10]

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.



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Small Group Questions

1. What has God put in your hand to use to extend His love and grace? What can you use to build His Kingdom?
2. How can you give a voice to those around you who don't have a voice (those that have been silenced or subdued)?
3. What is some dream deep within you that God has drawn out so that you can live for something bigger?
4. When was a time that God had you let go of something you were holding onto, so that He could give you His vision? How was that process refining for you? Were the "rock bottom moments" along the way?
5. How are you positioning your life to pursue "the one," to fulfill a tangible need right in front of you?