

First Things First

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25

19Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Background

We need each other. God made us for relationships -- with Him and with others. The author of the book of Hebrews knew this all too well. Writing to believers growing weary of increasing hostility for following Jesus, the author encourages his readers to find comfort and confidence in the common bond they share with one another. In our final message in the *First Things First* series, Pastor David will remind us that no matter our background, ethnicity, gender, or financial situation, we are all better followers of Jesus when we follow Jesus together.

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- In what fresh ways were you able to worship God this week? As a reflection from last week, how would you complete the statement: “God I love you because...”? What do you think of when you hear the word “fellowship?”

Talk it Over

- **Read Hebrews 10:19-22.** What has God done for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus (vs. 19-21)? How does this change our access to God? How does the author describe the way we should approach God? What do you believe it means to ‘draw near’ to God?
- **Read Hebrews 10:23-25.** What do you believe it means to ‘hold fast’ our ‘confession’? Why is reminding yourself daily what Jesus has done for us important for walking through difficult seasons of life? Sometimes we isolate in times of struggle. Why is gathering with other believers necessary for our spiritual lives? What is one way someone has inspired you to ‘love and good deeds?’ In what ways does focusing on the return of Jesus encourage us in times of trouble? What happens to us spiritually when we ‘neglect’ to gather for a prolonged time? Have you felt this spiritual drain during the year(s) now of COVID? What are some specific ways we can encourage one another this week?
- **Read Acts 2:42-47.** What happened when the first followers of Jesus gathered? How did they help each other? Have you experienced this kind of ‘fellowship’ in your own life? What was that like? Do you have a trusted group of people who ‘spur’ you on to ‘love and good deeds’ right now? Do you know someone who needs THIS kind of fellowship in their lives? What can you do to encourage them?

Live it Out

- What is one way you can be intentional this week to build stronger community/fellowship with other believers?
- Daily Scripture reading can be found at www.firstorlando.com/40days.