

Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 23rd Oct 2022



Week 5 – Together We Grow Hebrews 10:19-25

Preparation

- 1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW0kYtwosAl
- 2. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

Group Study

Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Reading:

Hebrews 10:19-25 Easy-to-Read Version

Come Near to God

19 And so, brothers and sisters, we are completely free to enter the Most Holy Place. We can do this without fear because of the blood sacrifice of Jesus. 20 We enter through a new way that Jesus opened for us. It is a living way that leads through the curtain—Christ's body. 21 And we have a great priest who rules the house of God. 22 Sprinkled with the blood of Christ, our hearts have been made free from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. So come near to God with a sincere heart, full of confidence because of our faith in Christ. 23 We must hold on to the hope we have, never hesitating to tell people about it. We can trust God to do what he promised.

Help Each Other Be Strong

24 We should think about each other to see how we can encourage each other to show love and do good works. 25 We must not quit meeting together, as some are doing. No, we need to keep on encouraging each other. This becomes more and more important as you see the Day getting closer.

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) Copyright © 2006 by Bible League International

Sermon Reminder:

The sermon reminded us that we, as churches, help each other hold on to hope together by focusing on God, spurring one another to good works, and meeting together consistently. By drawing near to God, focusing on Jesus, we are renewed as we remind one another of our baptism vows – 'our bodies being washed with pure water.'

We also spur one another to good works. The word that translates as 'spur' or 'incite' or 'provoke' is a strange word to link with 'love and good works' but its strength suggests the importance of helping one another live our faith on our frontlines.

The writer to the Hebrews recognised that we can help one another by not allowing each other to give up – to keep the challenge before us and keep going. Our scattered and gathered lives are irrevocably connected.

Together we remind one another of the core of our faith and its implications for the whole of life. Gathered church is where we are taught, guided, changed, challenged, equipped, encouraged, loved, and commissioned. Then our discipleship is lived out in our scattered frontline contexts.

Explore and Discuss

• The early church to whom Hebrews was written seem to have been tempted to stop meeting. Maybe their previous way of life seemed attractive again, maybe being out of step with society was getting difficult, or maybe they were just busy. When have you been tempted to give up on meeting together? What has kept you going? What is the best thing about gathering as Christians?

Reflect on your Frontline Sundays

- Take time to reflect on the Frontline Sundays series as a whole. What have you learnt about yourself? What have you learnt about one another? What have you been reminded of about God?
- What has become clearer about the relationship between the gathered and scattered life of your church? What is more challenging now?

Explore how you can continue encouraging one another

- Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to 'to spur one another toward love and good deeds'. How could your Sunday gatherings keep linking with your Monday to Saturday lives?
- What can you do to ensure that you keep encouraging others to be fruitful in their everyday lives?
- What's the one thing you don't want to lose from this series?

Close in prayer

If in a group allow each person to share something they are praying for on their frontline. Take time to pray together about these.

If alone, pray for your frontline and he people who you regularly meet asking God to help you by providing an opening for a conversation about faith.

You may wish to commission, or re-commission, one another for your life on your frontline. If so, you might use this commissioning prayer.

A simple commissioning prayer

We commit ourselves to the Lord's service, in response to his call on our lives. We pledge ourselves to sustained prayer and encouragement for our church family. We will join together in supporting one another as we obey the commission of God.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us; that in this and in all things we will know Christ and seek to make him known, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.