



HOW - Week 2

COME to Church & BE the Church

Hebrews 10:19-25

CONNECT

What is something that you wish you knew HOW to do? Why?

READ TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to read our passage from Sunday:
Hebrews 10:19-25

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What stuck out to you or what challenged you from this week's message?

Duey made this statement:

*If you want to DRAW NEAR to Jesus and if you want to STAY NEAR TO JESUS
Then you need to CONSISTENTLY GATHER TOGETHER at a LOCAL CHURCH*

- What do you think about that statement? Why?
- What can make consistently going to church challenging?

Duey talked about 4 THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU DON'T COMMIT YOURSELF TO GATHERING TOGETHER IN A LOCAL CHURCH

YOU DISOBEY GOD

- Why is this a big deal? (is it a big deal?)
- Have you ever found yourself wanting the BLESSING of God and yet choosing to walk in disobedience to God? Why do we do that?

YOU MISS GOD'S PRIMARY DESIRE FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- How does missing church affect your faith and walk with Jesus?
- How does missing church affect how you walk during the week?

YOU MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S WORTH TO YOUR WORLD

- What is your reaction to this statement? How come?
- In your world, who is watching you? What are you showing them?

YOU CAN'T MINISTER TO OTHER BELIEVERS

- Do you go to church looking for how you can encourage other people in their faith? Why?
- Why can it be so easy to make going to church about ME?

You **DRAW NEAR** and **STAY NEAR** to Jesus by **GOING TO CHURCH**
What does that look like?

COME TO CHURCH

FIND A CHURCH

- Have you found a church to make your church home? Why?

COME TO CHURCH CONSISTENTLY

- Do you do this? (*look at your calendar ... does it agree with your answer?*)
- What are the things that keep you from it? How can that change?

COME TO CHURCH EXPECTANTLY

- Do you come ready to WORSHIP God and HEAR from God?
- How do you do that? If you don't, how CAN you do that?

BE THE CHURCH

- What does it mean to BE the Church?
- Are you ACTIVELY doing that? Why or why not?

NEXT

Based on what we've looked at this week

- What do you need to do NEXT? How can we HELP each other?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

There are two reasons we can and should approach God (v. 22). First, we can have "confidence to enter" God's presence now and in the future, because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. We can enter God's presence through (by means of) Jesus' crucified "flesh," as though we are entering the Holy of Holies through the torn temple "veil" (Matt. 27:51). This is an example of one thing (i.e., the "veil" in the temple) being a type of another thing (i.e., Christ's "flesh"). His sacrifice provided "a new and living way," compared with the old—and now dead—way of the Old Covenant. The "way" in this verse is not Jesus Himself, in the sense of John 14:6 for salvation, but the way (direct access to God) He opened for us through His death.

We should "draw near" with freedom from guilt ("our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience") and with holy conduct (cf. 4:16). This is the first of three admonitions (in vv. 22-25) that together constitute the main exhortation in the epistle. This first admonition refers to personal devotion to God. Because Christ's self-sacrifice has made full atonement for the sins of His people (v. 19), we can and should draw near to God. "Sincere" means true and dependable. We should approach God with the "assurance" that Jesus Christ's death has removed our guilt for sin, and has made us acceptable to God (9:13-14; Num. 8:7; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; cf. 1 John 1:9). The writer believed that we who are Christians can have "full assurance" of our "faith," since our confidence rests in the sufficiency of what Christ has done for us (cf. 1 John 5:13). God wants Christians to know for sure that they are going to heaven.

We should not only exercise faith (v. 22), but also hope (v. 23) and love (v. 24). The second admonition, to "hold fast" to "the confession of our hope," is the one the writer emphasized most strongly in this epistle. It is an exhortation to perseverance. Since Christ has consecrated a new and living way in which we can walk before people in the world (v. 20), we should continue in it. The basis of our steadfastness is the fact that God is faithful to His promises concerning our future. The third admonition (v. 24) addresses our responsibility to fellow believers.

This admonition "to love" one another—our Christian obligation—was also necessary, since some were abandoning the faith. The readers needed "to stimulate one another" to remain faithful to the Lord ("to love and good deeds"), since we have a great High Priest who can help us (v. 21). This type of love is the product of communal activity; we cannot practice it in isolation from other believers.

Regular attendance at church meetings facilitates love for one another, because there we receive reminders and exhortations to persevere. It is only natural for one who has abandoned or weakened in his faith to absent himself or herself from the meetings of his or her church. However, this is the very thing such a person should not do. We need each other.