

Small-Group Discussion Guide (1/18/2025)

Sermon recap: This week we talked about stewarding a gift many of us can take for granted: **the gathered church**. Hebrews 10:19–25 reminds us that we don’t “hold fast” to Jesus by ourselves—we need each other. The weekly rhythm of showing up and the actual gathering itself both shape us over time, stirring us toward love and good works. And the call to prioritize the gathering isn’t meant to shame us; it’s meant to nourish us—because God uses ordinary, repeated worship to form His people.

Main passage: Hebrews 10:19–25

All passages used in the sermon: Galatians 6:14; James 1:17; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 16:11; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Matthew 5:3; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 10:19–25; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; Exodus 20:8; Colossians 3:16; Nehemiah 8:8–12; Acts 2:42–47

Additional Scriptures: Hebrews 3:12–13; Ephesians 4:15–16; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Psalm 122:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Brief definitions:

- **Liturgy** = the planned “service order” of worship—what we do each week to help tell the truth about God and shape us as His people.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about Sundays, what’s one word that describes how you usually feel walking into the gathering (hopeful, tired, distracted, eager, guarded, etc.)? What do you think is shaping that feeling most right now?
2. Hebrews 10:23 says we can hold fast “for he who promised is faithful.” What does God’s faithfulness look like in this passage—and how does it steady you? Where do you most need “God is faithful” to become more than a sentence this week?
3. The sermon named isolation, weariness, drifting, and apathy as real pressures. Which of those feels most present in your life lately? What would it look like to let another believer help you “hold fast” in a specific way?
4. The sermon returned to the idea that we come to God “empty-handed,” and that Jesus blesses the “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3). Why is that posture good news—especially when you feel weak or inconsistent? Where are you tempted to prove yourself instead of receiving grace?
5. The sermon asked whether we believe the gathering is forming us over time—even when it doesn’t feel that way. What makes that belief easy for you? What makes it hard? Can you name one season when steady gathering shaped you (or protected you) more than you realized at the time?
6. Hebrews 10:24 calls us to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” When you gather, do you tend to arrive mainly to receive, or also prepared to give? What is one small, realistic “contributor step” you could take next Sunday (encourage someone, pray with someone, serve, sing, welcome, stay after)?
7. The sermon framed “do not neglect meeting together” as love, not guilt—like nourishment rather than a scoreboard. What competes most for your Sunday rhythm (schedule, fatigue, habits, disappointment, distractions)? What is one change you can make *this week* that protects the gathering without pretending life is simple?

Prayer

Father, thank you for purchasing the church with the blood of Jesus and welcoming us into Your presence. Where we are tired, feed us. Where we are drifting, steady us. Where we are isolated, bring us into real community. Teach us to hold fast—not alone, but together—and make our gatherings places where love and good works are stirred up for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.