

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 12, 2020

Promises To Keep: Come On Down!

Pastor Johnson 8am & 10:30 Festival, Pastor Temple 9:15 & 10:30 Fam Life

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- There are 8,810 promises that God makes to us in the Bible. Have you ever made promises to God before? Are there some examples you could share with the group?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Hebrews 10:10:19-25. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience

and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- What was it like to approach the "Most Holy Place" in the temple before Jesus came? How was it different after? (vs 19, 22)
- How or why is Jesus body regarded as the curtain in verse 20?
- On what may one's boldness or confidence in drawing near to God be based? (21-23)
- Why do you believe encouragement is needed or given to Christians to "hold unswervingly" to hope? (vs 23)
- What are some of the characteristics of people of Christian hope or examples of encouraging one another in love and good deeds? (vs 24)

- Why is consistently meeting together with other Christians important? (vs 25). What happens if we don't?
- What have you gained by meeting together in this community? How have others been blessed by your presence and participation?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud James 4:7-8a, **“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you...”**
- How is the promise of this verse similar to the promise that is stated above in the Hebrews 10:22 passage?
- What other aspects of drawing near to God does this verse add to the discussion?
- How can someone know when they are submitting or have submitted themselves to God?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Who most inspires you to do good works that benefit others?
- What sometimes gets in the way of following through on good intentions?
- How is your faith connection with God and with God's people, the church, going so far in this new year of 2020? Have you set any new spiritual goals for this year?
- How frequently or consistently do you envision meeting together with God's people this year?
- Are there other regular activities or groups or seasonal events or volunteer opportunities are possible good works for you this year? (possibility- Habitat House project in this Sundays Community Moments video)

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How is sharing the good news about who Jesus is to others a good work?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to share such a priceless, matchless, wonderful gift that is free for us?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer