

SERMON: A Covenant People
SERIES: Who We Are
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

January 14, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 10:19-25.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let 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. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not 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.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. What is a church?
- II. Why church membership?
- III. What does church membership look like?

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. "The church is made up of people who make a voluntary commitment to one another." Do you struggle with commitment? What makes it hard/easy to commit to your church?
2. Talk about this definition: "A church is a local group of Christians committed to gather regularly, obey God's word, affirm and encourage devotion to Jesus, and celebrate the ordinances." How does Hebrew 10:19-22 make the truths in this definition possible for us?
3. Re-read Hebrews 10:24-25 and read Hebrews 13:17. How do these scriptures affirm church membership? How do they demonstrate what a church member should look like?
4. Pastor Mark said, "Love is essential because church is messy." And "Church membership is a public commitment to love even when it hurts or is hard." Do you find yourself being able to love even in the messy and hard times of church life? What things get in the way of our love for each other? How does the love of God in Christ help you to love even in the hard times?

Pray: for increased love in our church as well as God's grace to empower not only our church but local churches around the world.