



Week 7: The Word On...[CHURCH]

Sermon Date: 20 November

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To be used during the week starting Monday 21 November

Leaders – feel free to adapt these questions to suit your group.

1. Getting Started.

Everyday life is a series of value judgments in which, when all the factors are weighed, the people-oriented factors should take priority. All our fondest projects, the unfinished do-lists, all the paraphernalia of modern life we will leave behind in death. People are the stuff of eternity! A deep realization of this fact can't help but affect how we spend our lives - today and forever.

What are some of the things in life which stop us from meeting together as God's people?

2. Getting into the Bible....

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

a. Dig out the five "let us" commands....

v22 Let us ...

v23 Let us ...

v24 Let us ...

v25 Let us ...

v25 Let us ...

b. How are these five things to shape what we do as a community of believers at St Faith's?

c. Which of the five is the biggest challenge to you today? Why?

d. The writer of the Hebrews encourages the Christians to not give up meeting together. Why so and why is meeting together so important?

3. Group Reflection - read the illustration/story below out loud together.

THE SILENT SERMON

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace...and waited. The preacher made

himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.

- e. In what ways might we “lose our glow” if we’re not meeting together with other Christians? In what ways do we “glow again” when we’re meeting together?
- f. Consider together some ways that you might be able to “spur one another on”.

4. Personal Reflection –

- g. What are some things in your life which might take you away from regular fellowship in your small group or church? Can you make changes to your life to enable you to commit regularly to meeting together with other Christians? Share with the group if appropriate.

Prayer Ideas

- Give thanks for the fellowship with other Christians that you currently enjoy.
- Give thanks for the Lord Jesus, who makes our fellowship possible.
- Pray for the planning and execution of our Christmas events and services – that many visitors will come and hear the good news of Jesus coming to the world as Saviour.