

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Assembly: For the week of August 1 - 7, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes)

The Church is a spiritual community that anchors and defines our faith. From the beginning of the Church, the Enemy sought to keep Christians from gathering together through various forms of opposition like government persecution, pandemics, and all sorts of worldly distractions. The COVID pandemic is yet another attempt to cause the Church to cease gathering together, to blunt its impact in the world.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us to hold firm to our faith, by consistently gathering together. As we assemble consistently as a church, we are encouraged and equipped by one another to be sent out into the world to live and love like Jesus and to make a difference.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not 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." (Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV)

Points to Consider:

1. Through gathering, worshiping, and processing the Word together, our confession of faith is renewed. (v. 23)
2. Through gathering, we consider how to spur (challenge and encourage) one another to love and to good works. (v. 24)
3. Thus, we must gather consistently and encourage one another all the more in difficult seasons so that we can be the Church in the world and make a difference. (v. 25)

Discussion Questions: *(select those that best apply)*

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon, and the discussion points listed above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- How has gathering together with the church family encouraged your faith? How have you been able to encourage someone else?
- What challenges do you face in gathering consistently together with the church family? What adjustments can you make to be more consistent in gathering?
- What is one practical take away that you can apply from this discussion?

Prayer: *(10 Minutes)*

- Pray for one another to consistently gather together.
- Pray for those who have not been able to gather in the church family.
- Pray for those whom God wants you to invite into the church family.