

RHYTHMS: GATHER IN WORSHIP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HEBREWS 10:19-25

- 1 **What are some of your favorite parts of gathering in worship with Gospel Grace Church?** Share memories of both special things that have taken place and ordinary means of grace that happen week after week.

♥ *Read Psalm 122:1, Revelation 7:9-10, Psalm 133:1, and Acts 2:42-47 and discuss ways you've seen blessings in our church and community group.*

- 2 **Compare Hebrews 4:14-16 and Hebrews 10:19-25.** What are some of the key parallels and themes between these two passages? What are the different emphases of each one?

⚙️ *How do these parallels and differences deepen your understanding of the role of Jesus as a great high priest? How do those implications impact how you approach God in worship and prayer?*

♥ *What fears have you been facing recently that are settled as you consider these truths?*

- 3 **According to Hebrews 10:19, a believer's confidence to approach God is not based on anything in themselves-- their righteousness, religious activity, or ethnicity.** What is the basis of a believer's confidence to approach God?

⚙️ *That confidence is stated as a fact. But, often people live like they have more boldness or less boldness. What are some of the things that people mistakenly look to for their confidence in approaching God? (See also John 5:39-40, Ephesians 2:8-9, Isaiah 64:6, Matthew 7:22-23, Jeremiah 9:23-24)*

♥ *Which of those do you find you are most often tempted to look to for confidence?*

🗣️ *How would you talk to a friend who said to you, "I feel so unworthy to draw near to the holy God." What questions would you ask them? How would you go to God's word together?*

- 4 **Both Martin Luther and Deitrich Bonhoeffer wrote about the connection between our need to gather in worship with other believers and how it is essential in holding fast to the confession of our hope.** (Heb. 10:23) Read and then discuss what they had to say:

“At home in my own house there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.” (Luther)

“The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged...The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure. And that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation...Their fellowship is founded solely upon Jesus Christ.” (Bonhoeffer)

- ⚙️ *How have you experienced the need they are describing in your own life? And, how specifically have you experienced that ministry from others recently?*

- ⚙️ *Share ways that you’ve seen it to be true that “He who promised is faithful.”*

- 5 **Why do you think a person’s Christian journey can so easily drift toward individualism?** How does Hebrews 10:24-25 confront that?

- ⚙️ *Discuss as a group ways that you drift into being a spectator in worship. What would growth that is both focused both on God’s and others look like this week?*

- ⚙️ *Think specifically of someone around that you can encourage this week. Give careful thought to creatively and lovingly inspiring them to love and good works. What can you do the next time you gather with them?*

- 6 **Based on this week’s text and discussion, what practical ideas do you have to grow in your own practice of the rhythm of gathering in worship?** Think about Saturday night routines, your own personal engagement in worship, prayer points before and after a Sunday gathering, ways you can be more intentional about encouraging others.