

Roots

Week 1: Gather Want Fruit? Grow Roots!

Weekly Summary: “Let us not give up meeting together,” the author of the Hebrews wrote. He knew the power of regularly gathering around the gospel to be taught, corrected, challenged, confronted, and forgiven in Jesus’ name. This message explores the value of gathering together every week (and the lures the Enemy uses to prevent God’s people from gathering).

- Jeremiah 17:7-8 - “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

❖ Want **Fruit**? Get **Roots**!

- Hebrews 10:25 - “(And let us)...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.”

❖ Big Idea - To Gather **matters**!

- Hebrews 10:19-21 - “ 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, ...”

❖ Gathering is a **He** thing.

- Hebrews 10:22-23 - “...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.”

❖ Gathering is a **me** thing.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 - 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.

❖ Gathering is a **we** thing.

- John 15:4-5, 8 - Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

❖ Want Fruit^S? **Grow** Roots!

Points to Ponder

1. What phrase best describes why you come to church to “gather”...is it a “have to” or a “get to”? Why do you feel the way that you do? Does the “fruit” you produce differ when it is a “get to” and not a “have to”? If yes, what have you noticed from experience - both in the fruit you’ve produced and in others?
2. Agree or Disagree? The best Christian encouragers I know are the ones that “gather” every week. Why did you answer the way that you did? What does that say to you about the importance of gathering in your role as spouse, parent, child, and friend?
3. Reread Hebrews 10:19-25. God makes it very clear, “don’t give up meeting together” because it benefits both you and others. The Devil on the other hand knows if he can get you “in the habit of” stopping it will affect you and others and relationships with God. What distractions or other “good things” has the devil used on you in the past to get you out of the habit of attending church on a weekly basis? Because both are true why is it important to be intentional and have a “gather” plan each and every week?

Homework For Next Week: Acts 20:1-12

“The difference between listening to a radio sermon and going to church...is almost like the difference between calling your girl on the phone and spending an evening with her.”

~ D.L. Moody

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. “Open Up The Heavens” - by Vertical Church Band
2. “God With Us” - by All Sons & Daughters
3. “We Believe” - by Newsboys
4. “Thrive” - by Casting Crowns