

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

What does it mean to be a part of a church community? Why do we commit ourselves to one place instead of any other church down the road? As Christians, we believe that we are a part of the great family of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, which crosses all denominational distinctions and barriers because of our shared baptism. We are members together in a great household of faith. Yet we are called to embody that faith in a particular location and among a specific people. We are called to community and to be known and loved by a particular church congregation. And because we are family, family requires commitment.

So what does the lord require of us right here and right now, among this people? How can we uphold our vow to God and to one another to live out our faith at Revolution Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? Join us this November as we consider these commitments and ask God, what do you desire from us?

Message Synopsis

To be human is to be connected to others. We know this well as followers of Jesus Christ who need the presence, encouragement, wisdom, accountability, and community of other followers of Jesus in order to grow. We call this gathering of believers *koinonia*, a deep fellowship or communion with other Christians and with God. This communal nature of the Christian life is no more obvious than on All Saints Sunday when we celebrate the saints that have gone before us and informed our faith in Jesus Christ. Somehow, we are still bound together with that great cloud of witnesses, whose wisdom and lives still lead the way to glory. We need the presence of each other, and we also need you.

Key Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Hebrews 10:23-25, 12:1-2

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What does a commitment to presence mean to you? How do you become present in a local church community?
2. How do you become present in worship?
3. When is the last time you went to worship with the expectation that God would touch your life?
4. How is worship formative? What aspects of worship do you think are most powerful or meaningful?
5. When has the presence of other believers been extremely important to you? Who has been the most formative to your life of faith? Who do you celebrate this year on All Saints?
6. Where do you think God is calling you to be more present at Revolution right now?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “Hebrews: Session 7 - Blood” by Chad Ragsdale (19 min)

(located in the “Renovation Group Bible Studies” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/338653?episode=7>

1. Take a moment to discuss the video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. What is the difference between spirituality and religion? Between religion and relationship?
3. Consider these 4 levels of relationship: connection, cooperation, commitment, covenant. The first 3 levels are what Chad refers to as “contract” relationships. Discuss what the differences might be between these levels and then talk about where you find yourself on this scale with God, with our church as a whole, and with your Renovation Group. Give examples of people who might fall into each of these categories.
4. Chad says covenant goes beyond day-to-day feelings. Have you experienced this in any relationship outside of your immediate family? How do you walk out your covenant relationships even when you’re not feeling it (especially in relation to God and to our church)?
5. When does walking out your faith in community feel more like an empty ritual than a meaningful, intimate relationship? How can you help each other find new meaning in these areas? Are there any areas that you feel are completely unnecessary and should be cut out? Why (and for those in your group who disagree, why *not*)?
6. Consider watching more of this series at home if you want to learn more about Hebrews and God’s covenant with us through Jesus Christ.

Family-Related Questions:

Mark 6:1-6 shares the story of Jesus returning to his hometown. “He could do no mighty work there” (6:5) because the people had no faith (expectation) for God to show up.

1. What do your kids expect when they go to church? Is it all about fun and friendship, or is there a spiritual expectation as well? How can you begin to set a spiritual expectation for your family as you prepare for worship (either on Sunday or with your Renovation Group or during devotional times at home)?
2. It’s important to talk about what your children and family are experiencing in worship and not to make it a private experience. Take some time this week to talk about what your kids are learning and experiencing on Sunday mornings or in their personal relationship with God. This will reinforce the expectations you are trying to set and will help build faith for the next time. It will also help open the channels of communication with your kids and show them examples of how you are experiencing God’s presence in your own worship.