

Renting and Owning

Questions for Community Groups Week of October 8-14

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 | Hebrews 10:19-25

Hosts - What an incredible day Sunday was for Friendship Community Church! It was so exciting to be in our "own" building after nearly eleven years. It was good to tour the acoustics in the auditorium; pray as a larger gathering; and, then set out to see the building and pray. While we did not have an official service this week, Michael spoke about renting and owning.

Begin this week by allowing time for participants to share about the experience they had this past Sunday during the tour at Shiloh. After they have shared about their experiences begin to lead them through this discussion.*

Say, Michael shared that while we are grateful for the Shiloh property, God dwells within His people now that Christ has come. Previously God dwelt in a tabernacle (a temporary structure) and then the temple. We are blessed to have our new building at Shiloh. It is an incredible gift from God that so many of you and others have sacrificed to make available to serve our community. We are reminded throughout scripture that the tabernacle and temple were where people gathered to worship, but they were instructed to worship God, not the structure. And when they did worship the structure, God had a way of bringing that structure down. (Genesis 11:1-9 – Tower of Babel is a good example of bad worshipping)

Read or have someone read - *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Ask, What is the significance of us (Christ-followers) becoming the temple of God? (We now have direct access to God; He is always present; God's sacrifice of His Son has paid the price for our sin. He now makes His home in us.)

Read Hebrews 10:19-25 – *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not 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 10:19-25

Say, This is the beauty of God residing in us! We no longer have to go through a priest to have access to the Father, but we can approach Him through Christ and His sacrifice alone.

Ask, How can we "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith?" v. 22

Say, We can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is easy to fall back into old patterns of believing that we can "clean ourselves up and present ourselves blameless."

Ask, Does anyone have a usual "go to roadblock" or "red flag" to help you restrain from running down this street? What brings you to confession and repentance? (Allow participants to share what God uses

in their lives to bring them to Himself. Allow this time to be encouraging in helping one another when we are tempted.)

Ask, How does faith figure into our relationship with Him? v. 23
(Hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering.)

Say, in this verse, “Confession” is used in the sense of agreeing with God that He is our one and only hope. The more that we agree with God, the easier it becomes to realize our weaknesses and rely on His strength.

Reread v. 23-25. Ask, how as a group can we be diligent in encouraging one another and spurring one another to love and good works? (Remind them that these good works are an evidence of what God has already done and is doing in our lives. These good works are not done in order to garner more love from God but are evidence that we love Him and are grateful for Him and those He has placed in our lives.)

Lead the group to a time of prayer where they agree with God that He is our only hope and salvation. Celebrate that God has allowed us and provided a place to call our own. Shiloh is a beautiful, constant reminder that God is good. Lead the group to praise God that He now makes His home in us and that we have access to God at all times. Remind them that it in times when we feel like God is far from us, He is always there and He is always near. Encourage them to be quick to confess in the hope that is found only in Christ Jesus alone.

**These additional verses are those we shared during the tour. You may want to refer to them as they share about their tour experiences.*

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. Psalm 86:11-12

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:1-5

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away. Matthew 19:13-15

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13