



“Quality (over) Quantity”
Hebrews 10:19-25
Life Group Guide 2 of 6

1) Start your group with the following questions.

- Where were you and what were you doing on 9/11?
- What are some of the good and bad things that have come out of the seventeen years since?
- What are some measurable outcomes from your work or career?
- What are the more intangible things that make life and work valuable?

2) Share joys and concerns. Then lead this prayer and then pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

O God, as we enter this sacred place, we bring life with us. Some of us are happy and feeling blessed. Others are so over-scheduled that we’re nearing the breaking point. Still others brought our worries and fears with us today. And we all carry burdens that no one knows. But we are here. We are gathered in your presence. Remind us that our confidence is not in our accomplishments or anything else but your great love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. *(Add the Lord’s Prayer)*

3) The Bible text for this week is **Hebrews 10:19-25**.

Have someone read it. Then read it together (provide copies).

Read just verses 19-22. What is the source of our confidence that we can enter God’s presence? When God sees us what do you think he sees? What do you imagine God feels about us?

We sometimes sing the old hymn “Blessed Assurance” which comes in part from this Bible text and has this lyric, *“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.”* What do you think the author, Fanny Crosby, was trying to convey by the lyrics?

Read verse 23: What does it mean to *“hold fast and not waver?”* When it says that *“he who has promised is faithful,”* who is the one who has made promises to us? In what way is he faithful?

Read verses 24-25: What does it mean to *“provoke one another to love and good deeds?”* What does it mean to *“not neglect to meet with one another, as is the habit of some?”* How important is worship attendance to you? Your class or life group? Why?

4) Dr. Gardner, in his message Sunday, said this:

“Television personality Mr. Rogers once said, “In situations of chaos, look to the helpers.” That was certainly true at Ground Zero. Emergency personnel, police and fire departments, pastors and chaplains, and ordinary citizens found the best of human nature. On our best days, we still seek those qualities. But on our worst days we surrender to our fears, and hunker down to protect our families from the outside world. The problem is in so doing, we often leave behind the joy that is possible for us to experience from life.”

Are you more fearful and wary than you were before 9/11?

Are people more or less trusting of others than in the past?

What can we do to become more joyous and adventuresome and less wary and fearful? Or do we need to do so?

5) Read Dr. Gardner’s paraphrase of Hebrews 10:23-24:

“Let us hold fast to hope - for God has promised to always be faithful. So, let us encourage one another in love and good deeds...”
(Hebrews 10:23-24, paraphrased)

What are your sources of hope? Who are you giving hope?

Who has been an encourager to you? Who are you encouraging?

What are the good deeds you try to do on a daily basis?

6) Read and discuss the following quotation from Shauna Niequist which Dr. Gardner used in his sermon last Sunday:

“Productivity became my idol, the thing I loved and valued above all else... I wasn’t beautiful. I didn’t have a special skill. But I could get stuff done... The world that made sense to me was one of earning and proving, and frantically trying to prove my worth.”

Have those words ever described how you have lived or felt? How?

Is what work intrinsically important in and of itself? Why/why not?

Is our value measured in the quantity of our outcomes?

Is it equally important to value the people we encounter?

What are the things that make us worthwhile as a human being?

7) Preview the message titles for the series:

September 23	Philippians 4:2-8	<i>Relationships over Rushing</i>
September 30	Philippians 4:10-14	<i>People over Pressure</i>
October 7	I Corinthians 2:1-9	<i>Meaning over Manic</i>
October 14	James 1:19-26	<i>Real over ‘Religious’</i>

8) Announce the next Life Group and then close in prayer.