

## Session 2

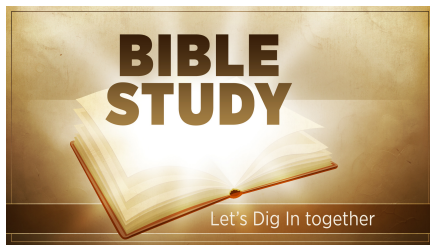
# Connecting with God's Family

Even in a place as big and buzzing as West Church we can find ourselves feeling alone and unknown. If we've grown up in a community it is easier to feel a part of it on a human level but church is more than a social gathering, it is a place where we develop deep connections to other people, rooted in our shared identity as children of God through Jesus.



Map out some of your family connections:  
Include biological and spiritual members  
Share your story.





## Growing to be like Christ

### Hebrews 10

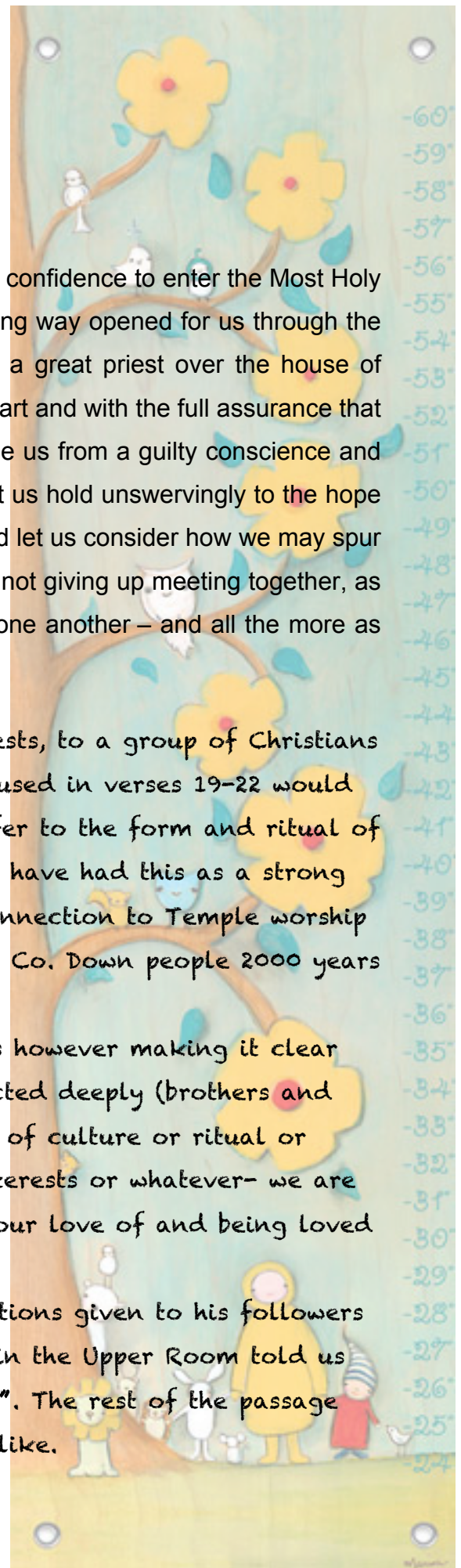
**19** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with 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. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards 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.

This letter was written, as it's name suggests, to a group of Christians from a Hebrew background. The imagery used in verses 19-22 would have really resonated with them. They refer to the form and ritual of Jewish worship in the Temple. They would have had this as a strong shared identity. This connection to Temple worship isn't just as unifying to Co. Down people 2000 years later.



The writer of Hebrews is however making it clear that we are still connected deeply (brothers and sisters) but not because of culture or ritual or geography or shared interests or whatever- we are all connected through our love of and being loved by Jesus.

Jesus in his last instructions given to his followers around the feast table in the Upper Room told us to **"Love one another"**. The rest of the passage helps shape our ideas of what that looks like.



## Questions

1. **Hope.** In vrs23- hope is really wanting something we don't yet have. As Christians, what do we hope for?

How can we help each other hold **unswervingly** to the hope, even when life is difficult?

2. What are examples of 'Love and good deeds' in v24 and what does spurring our group toward them look like?

If you are being 'spurred'- what you appreciate and what would you not?

3. Why is meeting together v25 so important? Why can't we just practice our faith on our own?

4. What is an example of an encouraging encounter with someone when you've felt life and faith to be a struggle?

What sort of action plan would be useful for you draw up in order to play this role in our group?



The reality is that we are and will continue to be a bit dysfunctional as a group of individuals. But the amazing distinctive of Christians is found in Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ in us- the hope of Glory. We are now the temple

of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22) will be growing in us as we cultivate our lives together..... SO





Now ask and listen.

Now get together in circles of 3 or 4 so that everyone has time to share and pray.



This is your question:

**HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER  
THE NEXT 2 WEEKS?**

	PRAYER REQUEST	PRAISE REPORT
Week 1		
Week 1		
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 2		
Week 2		