

LESSON NO. 9

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

CONGREGATE
CONGREGATE

 vangelism
mesoamerica

 my
Mesoamerica

LESSON NO. 9

CONGREGATE

RAFAEL ARÉVALO AGUILERA

Biblical Basis: Hebrews 10:24-25
Text to memorize: Hebrews 10:25

PURPOSE

That readers are clear about the determining and important of having a church, to meet intentionally.

REAL LIFE STORY

A young man from a rural area once shared that a family from his church who had been absent for many weeks had arranged to kill a chicken to eat with mole on Sunday. The chicken escaped from the patio and instinctively ran to where a group of people were standing in front of the temple, trying to lose itself in the crowd, the chicken passed among the people and made all the way inside the temple. The family, ashamed for not having attended for weeks, stayed outside the temple, waiting for people to leave the place to be able to enter for the chicken, but the wait was so long that in the end they decided to eat something else.

A sister from the church who observed everything, approached the family and commented: "It is incredible that the chicken can have more clarity than all of us. The temple is a place of refuge, the chicken found salvation there when being chased, I hope that we can desperately run to meet as a church, to take refuge once we recognize that the world is chasing us to kill us".



WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

In context, the letter to the Hebrews, from which we have taken our key verse, is a strong exhortation to a church that had lost enthusiasm to follow Christ (and consequently congregate) due to many trials and persecutions.

Let's see what the Bible says:

According to Hebrews 10:23, why should we stand firm in hope?

According to Hebrews 10:23, how can we keep our hope firm in the midst of trials?

According to Hebrews 10:24, what does it mean to “considerate” of one another?

According to Hebrews 10:25, what is the way the writer tells us that we can encourage ourselves to love and good works?

Read other versions to get a broader idea.

***“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.”
- Hebrews 10:25***



WHAT IS CONGREGATING?

The word *congregate* comes from the Latin '*congregare*' and its meaning is to associate, meeting, flock.

Congregating happens when a group of people come together in the same place to share something they have in common.



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



Throughout the Bible we can find some metaphors of the church, which give us a broader understanding of its purpose, and which generally give us a compelling reason to participate in it.

a. The church as the family of God. 1 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)

According to 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 6:4, what are the main functions, responsibilities, or roles that the family has with its members?

b. The Church as the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

According to 1 Corinthians 12, what are the characteristics that make the church similar to the human body?

According to Ephesians 4:15-16, why is unity and harmony important in the body of Christ?

What happens when a member of the body is cut? What would be the consequences?





REFLECTION

The church is a family we belong to, a body we serve, and a human temple that attracts the glory of God. It is not simply a place we go to; God does not call us to be spectators, but participants.

How does what you've learned change your ideas and attitudes toward the church?

What commitment can you make today to apply God's Word in your life?

How would you explain to other people what the church is and what it means to you?

Congregating frequently stops being a burden when you realize how vital it is for you and for the one next to you at this moment. This is just a training, because very soon we will be all together, worshipping in heaven together with the angels and all creation, but this time for all eternity.



PRACTICE

c. The church as a Building. 1 Corinthians 3:10

To build a building you need steel, cement, stone, water, and sand; and each of them is of vital importance for the construction of a large and beautiful building, this is the church, to build it must be based on the Holy Spirit, on Jesus, on the doctrine and on a healthy group of people.

According to 1 Peter 2:5, what role do believers have in this “new building” founded on Christ?

According to Psalms 133 and Matthew 18:20, what happens when believers are united?

According to Acts 2:1, how were the disciples and what were they doing when the Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost?

All these elements allow us to build a church with the Christocentric foundation and with a healthy theology like that of our church of the Nazarene where each element is a vital part of its edification and growth.