

Student Handout

“Stay Connected, Stay Encouraged”

A Bible Study on Hebrews 10:25

Main Text

Hebrews 10:25 — “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to help believers understand that Christian fellowship is not optional, casual, or merely traditional. Hebrews 10:25 teaches that gathering with the saints is a biblical necessity for encouragement, endurance, accountability, and spiritual readiness as we await the return of Christ.

This lesson encourages believers to value worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, ministry, and Christian community in a world where isolation, church hurt, busyness, grief, technology, and life pressures can tempt people to disconnect from the body of Christ.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, participants should be able to:

1. Explain why Hebrews 10:25 commands believers not to forsake assembling together.
 2. Identify the spiritual danger of isolation from the church community.
 3. Describe how Christians are called to encourage and strengthen one another.
 4. Apply the message of Hebrews 10:25 to modern church life, including worship, Bible study, ministry, and congregational care.
 5. Commit to one practical step that strengthens their connection to Christ and His church.
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Key Words

Forsaking

To abandon, neglect, desert, or leave behind. In Hebrews 10:25, this refers to developing a habit of neglecting the gathering of believers.

Assembling

The gathering together of believers for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, and mutual encouragement.

Exhorting

To encourage, urge, comfort, strengthen, or call someone closer to faithfulness.

Manner

A habit, custom, pattern, or repeated behavior.

The Day Approaching

A reference to the coming day of Christ's return and final judgment.

People in the Lesson

The Writer of Hebrews

The human author is not named in the text. The writer speaks with deep knowledge of the Old Testament, Jewish worship, priesthood, sacrifice, and the supremacy of Christ.

The Hebrew Christians

These were believers who likely came from a Jewish background. They were facing pressure, persecution, discouragement, and the temptation to turn back from following Christ.

The Church Community

The gathered body of believers. In this passage, the church is not just a building or program; it is a spiritual family called to hold on to faith together.

Jesus Christ

The larger chapter centers on Jesus as the perfect sacrifice, the great High Priest, and the One who gives believers access to God.

Places in the Lesson

The Assembly of Believers

This refers to the gathered community of faith. For us today, it includes Sunday worship, Bible study, prayer meeting, ministry meetings, small groups, and other gatherings where believers come together around Christ.

The Holy Place / Presence of God

Hebrews 10:19 speaks of believers having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus. This reminds us that worship is not merely social; it is spiritual access to God through Christ.

The World of Pressure and Persecution

The original audience lived in a context where following Jesus could cost them socially, religiously, and economically.

Scripture Background Information

The book of Hebrews was written to believers who were tempted to drift away from Christ because of pressure, persecution, weariness, and discouragement. The writer repeatedly shows that Jesus is greater: greater than angels, greater than Moses, greater than the old priesthood, and greater than the sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Hebrews 10 teaches that Jesus offered Himself once and for all as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Because of His blood, believers now have bold access to God. After explaining what Christ has done, the writer gives several commands: draw near to God, hold fast to your confession, consider one another, and do not forsake assembling together.

Hebrews 10:25 is not simply about church attendance as a religious checklist. It is about spiritual survival and community responsibility. The believers needed one another because the journey was difficult and “the day” was approaching. The same is true today. Christians need more than private belief; we need public worship, shared encouragement, spiritual accountability, and community strength.

Opening Discussion Question

During seasons when life is heavy, busy, painful, or discouraging, what are some reasons people begin to disconnect from church fellowship — and what do they lose spiritually when they disconnect?

Notes:

Lesson Introduction

One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is not always open rebellion. Sometimes it is quiet disconnection.

A person can still believe in God but stop gathering with God’s people. They can still love the Lord but stop worshipping, stop serving, stop praying with others, stop studying with the saints, and slowly drift into isolation. Hebrews 10:25 speaks directly to that danger.

The writer of Hebrews tells believers not to forsake the assembling of themselves together. That means gathering with the saints is not just a Baptist tradition, a family custom, or something we do because “that’s how we were raised.” It is biblical. God knows that believers need one another.

In the African American church tradition, the gathering has always carried deep meaning. The church has been a place of worship, survival, dignity, teaching, organizing, healing, singing, grieving, celebrating, and hope. From slavery to segregation, from civil rights to community crisis, from funerals to revivals, from youth ministry to Sunday morning worship, the gathered church has reminded us: we are not alone, and God is still with us.

Hebrews 10:25 calls us to stay connected — not merely to a building, but to Christ and His body.

Three Things To Remember

1. Don't Walk Alone When God Called You To Walk Together

Text Connection

Hebrews 10:25 begins, **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”**

Teaching Point

The Christian life was never designed to be lived in isolation. Personal devotion is important, but private faith was never meant to replace gathered fellowship.

When believers disconnect from the church, they become more vulnerable to discouragement, temptation, bitterness, false teaching, and spiritual drift. The enemy loves isolated saints because isolation weakens encouragement, accountability, and covering.

This does not mean every absence is sinful. Sickness, work, caregiving, travel, grief, disability, transportation, and other realities can affect attendance. But the verse warns against making disconnection a habit. The issue is not occasional absence; the issue is spiritual abandonment.

Discussion Question

What are some signs that a believer is not just absent, but slowly disconnecting spiritually?

Notes:

Cross Reference

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 — “Two are better than one... For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.”

Application Question

Who has helped lift you during a difficult spiritual season?

Notes:

Key Thought

God never intended for believers to fall alone, fight alone, grieve alone, or grow alone.

2. Don't Just Attend — Encourage Somebody

Text Connection

Hebrews 10:25 says, **“but exhorting one another.”**

Teaching Point

Gathering is not only about what I receive; it is also about what I give. Every believer has a ministry of encouragement.

Some people come to church saying, “I hope somebody blesses me.” But mature believers also ask, “Lord, who can I bless today?” Somebody in worship may need your smile. Somebody in Bible study may need your prayer. Somebody in the pew may need to know they are not forgotten. Somebody may need your testimony because they are facing something you have already survived by the grace of God.

Biblical exhortation is not empty flattery. It is spiritual reinforcement. It reminds people who God is, what Christ has done, what the Word says, and why they must not give up.

Discussion Question

Who encouraged you when you were spiritually weak, and what did they do that helped you keep going?

Notes:

Follow-Up Question

What are some unhealthy things people sometimes mistake for encouragement?

Notes:

Cross Reference

1 Thessalonians 5:11 — “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

Application Question

What is one practical way we can encourage someone this week?

Notes:

Key Thought

The church becomes stronger when every member takes responsibility for encouraging another member.

3. Don’t Lose Urgency — The Day Is Getting Closer

Text Connection

Hebrews 10:25 ends by saying, **“and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”**

Teaching Point

The writer reminds believers that time is moving toward God’s appointed future. Christ will return. Judgment is real. Eternity is coming. Therefore, believers should not become careless, casual, or spiritually sleepy.

The closer we get to the Lord’s return, the more we need worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and encouragement. The text does not say gather less as the day approaches. It says encourage one another **“so much the more.”**

This is especially important in a time when people can be connected digitally but disconnected spiritually. We can have phones full of contacts and still have no real fellowship. We can scroll all day and still starve spiritually. We can have access to sermons, songs, and religious content, but still avoid accountability, service, and real Christian community.

Discussion Question

How should knowing that **“the day is approaching”** change the way we worship, serve, forgive, give, and encourage one another?

Notes:

Follow-Up Question

What are some ways modern life makes believers spiritually casual?

Notes:

Cross Reference

Romans 13:11 — “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Application Question

What is one area where the church needs to wake up spiritually?

Notes:

Key Thought

The approaching return of Christ should make the church more faithful, not more casual.

Lesson Application

Reflect on these questions:

1. Am I slowly drifting from the gathered people of God?
2. Do I only attend when it is convenient, or am I committed to spiritual community?

3. Am I encouraging others, or only waiting to be encouraged?
4. Have I allowed hurt, habit, busyness, or disappointment to pull me away from fellowship?
5. Who needs me to check on them this week?
6. What step can I take to reconnect more faithfully with worship, Bible study, ministry, or prayer?

Notes:

Practical Challenge for the Week

Choose one action to practice this week:

- Call or text one church member who has been absent or quiet.
- Invite someone to next week's Bible study or worship service.
- Pray daily for the unity and strength of the church.
- Encourage one person who is going through a difficult season.
- Commit to being more faithful in gathering with the saints.
- Thank someone who has encouraged you spiritually.
- Ask God to show you one person who needs to be lifted this week.
- Share a Scripture with someone who is discouraged.
- Pray for a ministry leader who may be tired or overwhelmed.

My commitment this week:

Closing Summary

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us of three important truths:

First, don't walk alone when God called you to walk together.

Second, don't just attend — encourage somebody.

Third, don't lose urgency — the day is getting closer.

The church is not perfect, but the church is still God's family. We gather because Jesus is worthy, life is difficult, encouragement is necessary, and the day is approaching.

Closing Prayer

Lord God, thank You for saving us through Jesus Christ and placing us in the family of faith. Forgive us for the times we have neglected fellowship, taken the church for granted, or failed to encourage one another. Strengthen our commitment to worship, Bible study, prayer, service, and Christian community. Help us notice those who are drifting, comfort those who are hurting, and encourage those who are weary. Keep us faithful as we see the day approaching. In Jesus' name, Amen.