**Sermon Notes Sunday 16th October**

**Frontline Sundays: ‘Together we grow’**

**Aim: To remind us that we need one another if we are going to be fruitful when we are apart and consider ways in which the ongoing life of your small group can stay attentive to one another’s frontlines.**

The early church to whom Hebrews is written seems to have been tempted to stop meeting. Maybe their previous way of life seemed attractive again, maybe being out of step with society was getting difficult, or maybe they were just too busy.

* When have you been tempted to give up on meeting together? What has kept you going?
* What is the best thing about gathering as Christians?

**Read Hebrews 10:19-39**

The writer to the Hebrews recognised that we can help one another by not allowing each other to give up – to keep the challenge before us and keep going. Our scattered and gathered lives are irrevocably connected. Together we remind one another of the core of our faith and its implications for the whole of life. Gathered church is where we are taught, guided, changed, challenged, equipped encouraged, loved, and commissioned. Then our discipleship is lived out in our scattered contexts.

* What do verses 19-22 tell us about what God has done for us?

The word that translates ‘spur’ or ‘incite’ or ‘provoke’ is a strange word to link with ‘love and good works’ but its strength suggests the importance of helping one another live out our faith on our frontlines.

* How have you been used or had opportunity to ‘spur’ some one to come back to church/Life group or encourage to keep close to God?
* What can you do to keep encouraging one another to be fruitful in your every day lives?

V26-31 warn against deliberately continuing to sin (v26). This is often applied to people outside the church but actually it was written in the context of the Lord judging his own people. This was not something his readers have fallen into as he reminds them of the time when you ‘stood your ground’.

* Have there been occasions when you have had to ‘stand your ground’?

**Pray for one another that we may be faithful to our calling and encourage each other to continue to draw near to God.**

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