

REDEMPITIVE FAMILY

Small Group Study 5 - Choosing to Lead Ourselves

THE BIG IDEA: If there are things to be done or behaviour that needs to change for our church to fully embrace its role as a redemptive family, the change needs to begin somewhere. If everyone waits for someone else to take the lead, change becomes impossible. We each need to take responsibility for our own life, whatever others might do; and if enough of us make the change, others will follow.

OPEN

1. Can you recall a time when you chose to break with the crowd and do something different? Was it easy or hard for you to do?

2. When have you had to make sacrifices in order to do something you really wanted to do?

DIG

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let 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. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not 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. (NIV)

3. The first part of this passage (vv.19-23) emphasises our spiritual ***independence***. Through Jesus our High Priest we have personal direct access to God. What responsibility do we have in light of this privilege to lead ourselves well?

4. According to verse 22, the marks of a spiritually mature person are sincerity, assurance, an untroubled conscience and keeping our bodies pure. Why are these important characteristics of the person who leads themselves well?

5. The second part of this passage (vv.24-25) emphasises our spiritual ***interdependence***. Despite the fact that Jesus has given us a personal standing before God, we still need each other. Why is this so?

6. Is there a relationship between leading ourselves well spiritually and our ability to be an encouragement to others?

REFLECT

7. Why is it important that we not live in passive ***dependence***, always waiting for others to take the lead?

8. How can this group be a role-model for behaviour that will help our church embrace its role as a redemptive family?