

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### *Rules of Life // Embracing Community in a Time of Isolation*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** **How dirty do you let your car get before you wash it?**

**Reading:** Hebrews 10:19-25

#### **Outline:**

- I. The Gospel invites us to draw near... v. 19-22
  - a. These verses describe the change in how we experience God's presence due to Jesus
  - b. Jesus' sacrifice tore the curtain that separates us from being able to dwell in God's presence and allow it to transform our hearts  
**Q: *Why is this an invitation instead of a command?***
- II. Hold fast... v. 23
  - a. In order to hold fast we must constantly look to and seek God and his promises
  - b. Since this is easier said than done, another key part in holding fast is seeking strength from God to consistently rely on Him  
**Q: *How does holding fast help us understand God's presence?***
- III. And stir up one another v. 24-25
  - a. Alongside drawing near to God personally, we're called to encourage others to keep drawing near to God as well
  - b. This kind of community can be the strength that God gives to be able to rely on Him daily  
**Q: *How can community ease the struggles that come with holding fast?***

#### **Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) In what ways today do we reject instead of accept the invitation of the Gospel?
- 2) What blessings came from the change in our relationship with God due to Jesus?
- 3) What makes it hard to hold fast to our pursuit of God?
- 4) How can community help with those struggles? What does that look like for you?
- 5) What areas of your life are in need of the strength and grace that community can help provide?

#### **Suggestions for further study:**

- Romans 5:2 **Q: *How did Jesus ease the suffering of being sinful creatures?***
- Ephesians 3:12 **Q: *What should our faith walk look like because of Jesus' sacrifice?***
- 1 John 4:17 **Q: *How does our confidence in Jesus prepare us for judgement day?***

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Gracious God, we thank you so much for the gift of your word, and for this community that gathers around that gift. As we reflect on your word, we ask that you would give us open ears to hear your message, and hearts willing to receive it and be changed by it. Lord, through the work that your word does in us, we ask that you would create in us a community that reflects Jesus, your love, your grace, and your mercy to the world around us. We ask this all in Jesus' name, Amen.