**Spur One Another On**

**The Word**

Read together Hebrews 10:19-25

**The Big Idea**

In times of challenge, it’s important for us to encourage one another and spur one another on towards running this race with endurance. We need to constantly remind each other of the gospel so that we live from a place of grace and gratitude.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. How would you describe your spiritual “state” of late (e.g. encouraged, energized, close to God, apathetic, distracted, discouraged, etc.)?

2. How has someone encouraged you or spurred you on lately? What specifically was it they did that was encouraging?

3. Consider someone in your life who may be in need of encouragement. Consider how you might encourage them and take time to pray for them now.

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

A. This summer we are exploring the “one anothers” in Scripture as a way of considering what the church is. Today’s one another is found in v. 24: “Spur one another on towards love and good deeds.”

B. The need for “spurring one another on” and “encouraging one another”

 1. “Spur on”

a. Sometimes we get spiritually apathetic, lazy, stagnant and we need a strong presence to spur us on and get us spiritually engaged again.

b. The “Covid Malaise”: the cumulative effect of these past four months plus losing some of our usual life-giving daily rhythms has left many of us in a bit of a spiritual malaise.

 2. “Encourage”

a. Sometimes we get discouraged and need someone to en-courage us again, infusing us with the courage to live well and face life’s challenges

b. Many of us have grown discouraged lately: recent covid spikes, division in our country, navigating having children at home this fall, etc.

3. The beauty of the body of Christ is we face life’s challenges together

a. Hebrews uses the analogy of a race/marathon that we run together (ch. 12)

b. We all hit walls of apathy and discouragement, but we don’t all hit them at the same time, so we can spur each other on when we are encouraged, and they will then spur us on at another time when they are encouraged

C. How do we spur one another on and encourage one another?

 1. There is obviously no one right way to do this

 a. Sometimes we bring warmth: comfort, listen, pray, just sit with, a note, etc.

 b. Sometimes we bring strength: exhorting them to join us in a pursuit

 c. Usually spurring and encouraging involves a combo of warmth and strength

 2. One way we can spur and encourage is by reminding each other of the gospel

a. It is so encouraging to hear from one another in terms of how we’re experiencing God’s grace, generosity, and provision, and how various gospel truths are coming alive in our lives.

b. Our passage in Hebrews is a powerful reminder of the gospel (v. 19-23)

1) Jesus is our once-for-all sacrifice and Great High Priest giving us confidence to be in the presence of our holy God

2) We have been cleansed and forgiven, so we can “draw near” to God with full assurance.

c. It is when we are truly living in the wonder and joy of the gospel that we are motivated towards genuine “love and good deeds,” not out of duty or obligation but from a place of gratitude and joy.