



## 2017 DEVOTIONALS

Pastor Gregg recommends two devotional options for our church family to use in 2017 – *Discovering God: 365 Daily Devotionals* by David Jeremiah, and *Simple Pursuit: A Heart After Jesus* by the Passion Movement.

CornerBooks

## WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Nov 2016–Jan 2017

Given beyond our regular tithes, the World Mission Offering supports missionaries in Texas, the USA and around the world. Use designated envelopes at your campus, give online at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org), or text your campus code to 77977 for a link to give on your mobile device (HFBCLoop, HFBC Cypress, HFBCDowntown, HFBCEspañol, HFBCSienna).

## LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others and growing together at Houston's First. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to find one that's right for you, or ask the Guest Experience (GX) team at your campus for assistance.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

Celebration 

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to download two original songs as our gift to you,

"Let's Celebrate Christmas Again" and "Make a Memory for Christmas"

## SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

### The Loop Campus

7401 Katy Fwy  
Houston, TX 77024  
Worship 9:15a-11a-5p  
Life Bible Studies  
8a-9:15a-10:45a-6:30p

### Cypress Campus

Smith Middle School  
10300 Warner Smith Blvd  
Cypress, TX 77433  
Worship 9:30a & 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a & 11a

### Downtown Campus

1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level)  
Houston, TX 77002  
Worship 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

### Español Campus

7401 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77024  
Worship 5p  
Life Bible Studies 6:30p

### Sienna Campus

4309 Sienna Pkwy  
Missouri City, TX 77459  
Worship 9:30a & 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a & 11a

## Celebrate the Season with Houston's First

Visit your campus' page at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for details about the following services and other events and opportunities happening this holiday season!

### Christmas Eve – Sat, Dec 24

- The Loop @ 2p, 4p, & 6p
- Cypress @ 4p & 6p
- Downtown @ 2-6p (Open Door Mission)
- Español @ 5p (Chapel)
- Sienna @ 4p & 6p

### Christmas Day – Sun, Dec 25

- All campuses gathering at The Loop @ 5p

### New Year's Day – Sun, Jan 1

- The Loop @ 10a
- Cypress @ 9:30a
- Downtown @ 11a
- Español @ 5p (Chapel)
- Sienna @ 10a



Interested in a 2017 mission trip? For trip details and to complete an interest form, visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). Spring trips include:

### The Loop Campus:

- Sao Luis, Brazil: Mar 3-12
- Costa Rica: Mar 11-18
- Guatemala: Mar 11-18
- NYC: Apr 12-16
- Athens, Greece: May 26-Jun 6

### Downtown Campus:

- Montreal: Apr 24-26
- Honduras (Living Water): Apr 29-May 6

### Español Campus:

- Mexico: Mar 11-18

### Sienna Campus:

- Aruba: Feb 11-18
- Oakland, CA: Mar 11-18

CONTACT [Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org)



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
PASTOR GREGG MATTE

Weekly Guide  
Dec 18, 2016

# Celebrate the Season with Houston's First

Gather with the Houston's First family on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day as we celebrate these special moments of the year. See the back cover of this Weekly Guide for the schedule at each campus, and visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for additional details.

## ALL CAMPUSES

### HighPoint Bible Study

**Wednesdays @ 11:30a – 1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level)**

This weekly downtown Bible study is taking a Christmas break! Join us on Wed, Jan 11, with Dr. David Self teaching at 12:10p. Bring your lunch or purchase one there for \$8. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to learn more.

**CONTACT** [Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

### SoFA Spring Registration

The School of Fine Arts (SoFA) at The Loop Campus is open to church members and the public, offering excellent private instruction to all ages. The spring semester begins Mon, Jan 9, with classes in voice, piano, guitar, brass, woodwinds strings, dance, photography, and graphic design. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or call 713.957.5889 for more details. Space is limited, so register soon!

**CONTACT** [Eric.Belvin@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Eric.Belvin@HoustonsFirst.org)

### Midnight Madness

**Fri, Jan 27 @ 5:30p–Midnight – The Loop**

Current and prospective Life Bible Study leaders from each Houston's First campus will gather for this annual equipping event for great training, inspiring vision, fantastic giveaways, interactive fun – and food, of course! Learn how Life Bible Study is a critical part of the mission of Christ and come together as leaders from all age groups and leadership positions to focus on how each leader can serve with excellence. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**CONTACT** [Eric.Belvin@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Eric.Belvin@HoustonsFirst.org)

## YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS

### Summit NYE 2017

**Sat, Dec 31 @ 9p–1a – NRG Stadium**

This New Year's Eve, Go Big or Go Home at Summit NYE 2017! Celebrate another New Year while throwing it back to the glitz and glam of Old Hollywood. Sure to be an instant classic, the party will have heavy hors d'oeuvres, DJ & dancing, karaoke, stadium tours, and more! So, ring in 2017 in a BIG way at Summit NYE 2017! Find out more and register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**CONTACT** [Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

## MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

### Mingling of Souls

**Feb 10–11 – The Loop (Worship Center)**

Houston's First welcomes back Matt and Lauren Chandler as they present the Mingling of Souls Marriage Conference live at The Loop Campus on Feb 10-11, 2017. With new content to share, Matt and Lauren will cover the following areas at this event open to married couples of all ages: The Covenant, Progress, Common Grace, and The Long Game. Find out more about pricing, childcare and registration at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**CONTACT** [Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonsFirst.org)

## MEN

### Men: Serve

**Sat, Jan 14 @ 8a–1p – The Loop**

Men will gather at The Loop Campus then head out in teams around the city to serve the widows in our church family. Yard work, home repairs, car maintenance and other tasks – there is a place for you to serve! Register by Fri, Jan 6, at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). If you are a widow in need of assistance contact Sherry Oradat at 713.957.6764.

**CONTACT** [Emily.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Emily.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org)

## THE LOOP

### Fitness Expo

**Sun, Jan 29 @ 12:15-2p – The Loop (Fitness & Rec Ctr)**

Celebrating its 33rd anniversary in 2017, the Fitness & Recreation Center offers a variety of classes, programs, and opportunities. More than just a place to get in shape, the FRC is a ministry, as well. Come discover all that the FRC has to offer at Expo 2017 with class demonstrations, health screenings, kids' programs and much more! Learn more at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**CONTACT** [Becca.Woolbridge@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Becca.Woolbridge@HoustonsFirst.org)

## SINGLE ADULTS

### Impact New Year's Eve Party

**Sat, Dec 31 @ 8:30p – Hunt Retreat**

Ring in 2017 with an evening of hilarity and fun! Enjoy a show, hors d'oeuvres, games, music, smiles and more. Robb Brunson from InterActive Theater Company will emcee the night's entertainment, Impact's Got Talent Variety Show! Enjoy the performance or join the show and let your talents shine – whatever they are! The deadline to enter the Variety Show is Sun, Dec 18. Rooms are available if you want to stay the night, but space is limited, so reserve your spot before they are gone. Get all the details at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)!

**CONTACT** [Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org)

## WOMEN

### Fighting for Your Family

**Sat, Jan 14 @ 9a–12p – The Loop (Chapel)**

Are you ready to fight for the ones you love the most? Join us for a workshop led by author, speaker, and Bible teacher, Debbie Stuart, director of ministry initiatives at Hope for the Heart. Debbie has experience with prodigals and has had to learn how to fight for her own family over the years. Childcare available for \$10 (\$5 each additional child) by registration at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) by Fri, Jan 6.

**CONTACT** [Meredyth.Cann@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Meredyth.Cann@HoustonsFirst.org)

## CYPRESS

### MidLink

**Wed, Jan 11 @ 6-8p – Cypress Ministry Center**

There's more to the Cypress Campus of Houston's First than what happens on Sundays! MidLink is a mid-week gathering connecting the church family from Sunday to Sunday. The next MidLink semester begins Wed, Jan 11, and includes Mission Friends and BLAST for ages birth-5th grade, community groups for HUB Students (6th-12th grades), and Financial Peace University and PLACE classes for adults.

**CONTACT** [Dana.Haddad@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Dana.Haddad@HoustonsFirst.org)

## DOWNTOWN

### Marathon Sunday

**Sun, Jan 15 – 1010 Lamar**

The Downtown Campus will cheer for Houston Marathon runners at 8a as they pass by our front door at 1010 Lamar! We'll exercise our hospitality by engaging in conversation with fellow spectators, and offering hot cocoa and coffee, too. Come worship with us later that evening at 5p.

**CONTACT** [Nikki.Moss@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Nikki.Moss@HoustonsFirst.org)

## ESPAÑOL

### NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

### Career & Education Day

**Sat, Feb 18 @ 9a-3p – George R. Brown Convention Center**

Middle and high school students and parents are invited to join us in a full day of college and financial aid information provided by the Houston Hispanic Forum. This event is free, but registration is required at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**CONTACT** [Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org)

## SIENNA

### NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

### Popcorn & PJs Movie Night

**Fri, Jan 13 @ 6–8:30p – Sienna Worship Center**

Wear your favorite pajamas and invite a friend for a special family movie night full of popcorn and candy! Families with kids of all ages are welcome to come and watch *Finding Dory*.

**CONTACT** [Cynthia.Barkley@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Cynthia.Barkley@HoustonsFirst.org)

## YEAR-END GIVING

You may be interested in making a financial contribution to Houston's First before the 2016 tax year ends on Sat, Dec 31. For contributions to qualify as a 2016 tax-deductible donation, they must be received by the church as follows:

- Online**  
 Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. If your plans prevent you from attending church that day, giving online at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) is always a convenient way to share your generosity. Contributions submitted at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) must be made before midnight (Central) on Sat, Dec 31, 2016.
- Mobile**  
 Contributions submitted on a mobile device must be made before midnight (Central) on Sat, Dec 31, 2016. To make a mobile contribution, text your campus code to 77977 to receive a designated link – *HFBCLoop*, *HFBCcypress*, *HFBCDowntown*, *HFBCespanol* or *HFBCSienna*.
- In person:**  
 Contributions must be brought to the church's Financial Services office by no later than 2p on Sat, Dec 31, 2016. The office will be open on that Saturday from 10a–2p and is located at The Loop Campus at 7401 Katy Freeway.
- By mail:**  
 The postmark date must be before Jan 1, 2017. Contributions should be mailed to Houston's First Baptist Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024.

Contact [Sara.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Sara.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org), or call her at 713.957.5806 if you would like additional information.

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Since the church is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, gifts of stock qualify as a charitable contribution and are tax deductible. If you would like to donate a gift of stock, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet at 713.957.5807 or at [Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org).

## CREATING A WORSHIPFUL ENVIRONMENT.

### As a courtesy to others

- Silence cell phones
- Use restroom before worship service
- Remain seated once message begins
- If you leave, re-entry may not be allowed

### At the end of the worship service as people are invited to accept Christ or join the church

- Remain in the Worship Center
- Pray as people respond
- Exit after we are dismissed