

# welcome.

2018  
MAY

A MONTHLY SNAPSHOT • HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • PASTOR GREGG MATTE

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# HOUSTON 1:8



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG



# "GET WISDOM, GET UNDERSTANDING..."

That's what Solomon encourages us to do in Proverbs 4:5, and we're exploring that book of the Bible in the Seven Pillars of Proverbs message series that started in April and continues through May. Wisdom can come from a lifetime of learning and experience, but it can also come by simply asking God for it. James 1:5 says that "if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him." We're asking for His wisdom as we look at the topics of parenting, sex, integrity, being a man or woman of God and other areas.

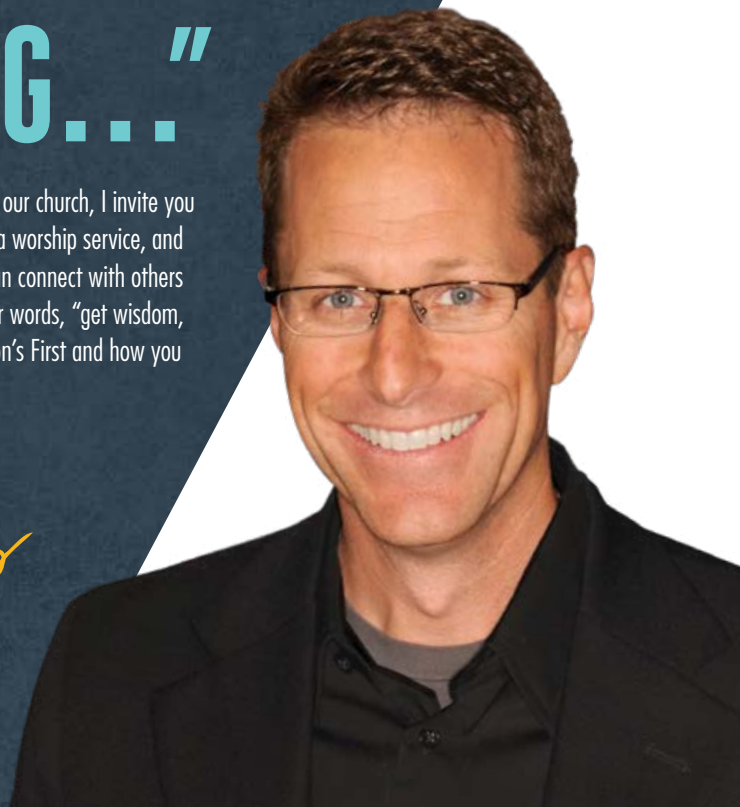
No matter where you are in your journey with Christ or how much wisdom you think you need, Houston's First is a welcoming and encouraging community where you can seek answers to any questions you might have.

To truly get to know the heart of our church, I invite you to attend a Life Bible Study and a worship service, and to explore the many ways you can connect with others at each of our campuses. In other words, "get wisdom, get understanding" about Houston's First and how you can make it your church.

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg*

Pastor Gregg Matte



## DAILY WISDOM

A READING PLAN FOR PROVERBS



- Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for daily reading plus printable calendar
- Text **PROVERBS** to **41411** to subscribe to weekday text reminders (Para recordatorios en español, manda **41411** al **41411**)

## ¡BIENVENIDO A LA MAÑANA!

**Campus en Español • Domingos a las 9:15 am**

El 15 de abril, el Campus de Español de Houston's First se mudó de los domingos en la tarde a los domingos por la mañana. Adoran juntos a las 9:15 am en la capilla del Loop Campus, seguido por clases de discipulado después del servicio a las 10:45 am. Así que ven a reunirse con el pastor del campus Juan Alaniz cada semana para adoración en vivo y un mensaje del Pastor Gregg Matte por video — todo en español. ¿A quién pudieras invitar a venir?

*On April 15, the Español Campus of Houston's First moved from Sunday evenings to Sunday mornings. They worship together at 9:15a in the Chapel at The Loop Campus, then meet in Life Bible Studies after the service at 10:45a. So, come gather with Campus Pastor Juan Alaniz each week for live worship and a message by Pastor Gregg Matte by video — all in Spanish. Who could you invite to come?*

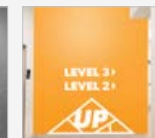
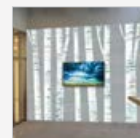


## NEW STARTS NOW.

It's never too late for a new start. That's the message our Downtown Campus is embracing as extensive renovations wrap up at their facility at 1730 Jefferson. More importantly, with this inviting and expanded space, they look forward to welcoming more people with the message of hope and renewal that Jesus offers.

The campus will officially celebrate the start of this new chapter on Sun, May 20. The day begins at 10a with breakfast and tours of the facility, followed by a special worship service. The purchase of the building and the extensive renovations were all made possible by more than 2,770 donors from the Houston's First family who gave to The Downtown Project in February 2017. See pictures of the renovations and learn more about the Downtown Campus at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

Remember—whether it's a campus that's been gathering since 2011 or an individual struggling with the challenges of life, it's never too late for a new start.



# HOUSTON 1:8

## One Church. Five Campuses. Many Ways To Reach Our City.

Our LOVEFIRST Disaster Relief efforts following Hurricane Harvey were a galvanizing moment in the life of Houston's First. Just as we saw happen throughout our city, within our church family we saw the beauty and impact of people stepping up to serve—making themselves available for whatever work needed to be done. It is that heart for serving others and being Jesus' hands and feet that makes Houston 1:8 such a difference-making week for our city and our church.

Those of us involved in LOVEFIRST Disaster Relief will always remember the lessons we learned about community, sacrifice and the power of being present. As Pastor Gregg said, "When the rains fall, the church rises." Houston's First was ready to rise up and respond as soon as the storm hit thanks in part to our 20 years of experience with Houston 1:8—our annual mission trip to our city each summer.

Rather than hopping on a plane and crossing the ocean to a foreign land, Houston's First members from every campus are mobilized to hop in their cars and go across town (or just across their street) to share the love and truth of Jesus with others.

### Much like our LOVEFIRST Disaster Relief efforts:

- Houston 1:8 is a community of believers boldly serving our city together in Jesus' name.
- Houston 1:8 calls for a sacrifice of time and "comfort zones" to reach people where they are.
- Houston 1:8 is about being present—connecting with others so Jesus' love shines through.

"Houston 1:8 is a really good picture of what it looks like when the whole church comes around one thing," says Skyler Womack, Missions Associate and Houston 1:8 Coordinator. "Our LOVEFIRST Hurricane Harvey relief efforts were so powerful for the Houston's First family. Everyone was on one common mission to love our city. That's what Houston 1:8 aims to do on an annual basis."

So, rain or shine this July, will you rise up and be a missionary to your own city?

### ABOUT HOUSTON 1:8

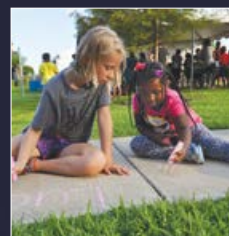
- Evenings of July 9-12
- Activities vary by campus
- All ages can serve
- Training is provided

### JOIN THE TEAM!

Three ways to become a Houston 1:8 missionary:

- 1 Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)
- 2 Visit the Houston's First app
- 3 Text **HOUSTON18** to **41411**

Mon, June 25 is the absolute last day to join!



## MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2017–APR 22, 2018

### DECISIONS

609 New Church Members  
114 Joined by Baptism



17% of New Members were Baptized

### ATTENDANCE

200,870 in Life Bible Studies  
(5,150 weekly average)  
231,547 in Worship Services  
(5,513 weekly average)  
43,482 on Webcast  
(1,035 weekly average)

### MISSIONS

24 Mission Trips with  
1,653 Team Members



### GENEROSITY

7,088 Givers to  
Great Commission Fund  
1,126 First-Time Givers



16% of Givers Gave for First Time



# ASTROS

## PUT A RING ON 'EM

By now, most Houstonians have seen and heard about the World Series Championship rings given to our Houston Astros — to both the players and the vast number of employees who make the plays behind the scenes. Among the recipients of these stunning rings were several members of the Houston's First family. **Go to [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to read more** about each team member's experience, the role they play and what it's like working for our hometown team.



Wendy, Ben, Patsy, Nancy and Leonne with their rings



Alex receiving his ring at Minute Maid Park

- *"Last season I saw the Houston's First sign in right field. I checked out the church and have never looked back."*  
— Ben Hartman
- *"I try to show the love of Christ to all who come to my window."*  
— Erta "Leonne" Gervais
- *"I'm part of a small prayer group at work that prays for others when asked."*  
— Patsy Perez
- *"Our boss reminds us that we are part of important memories people are making with their families."*  
— Wendy Franco
- *"Visitors from other countries share that they have never seen a baseball game. It's a delight to help them!"*  
— Nancy Purcell
- *"My co-workers and I prayed together as a group for the Harvey victims we served."*  
— Alex Grigas

*spend your  
summer  
with houston's first*

**Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about each of these and to sign up for all the fun ahead!**

### Daycation (day camp)

May 29–Aug 10

The Loop Campus

Kids entering 1st–5th grades

### Dunamai (day camp)

May 29–Aug 10

The Loop Campus

Kids entering 6th–9th grades

### Camp Intersect

June 10–13

Carolina Creek Christian Camp

Kids entering 4th–7th grades

### Vacation Bible School

June 25–28 — The Loop Campus

Kids entering K–6th grade

(plus other kids born by Dec 31, 2013)

### Rush Week

July 20–26 — Panama City Beach, FL

Kids entering 7th grade–Recent Grads

### Discover252 (T-Bar-M Day Camp)

Aug 6–10 — Cypress Campus

Kids entering 1st–5th grades

## APRIL MOMENTS



Pastor Gregg co-hosts KSBj Morning Show



Sienna Campus women gather at Hunt Retreat



The Loop Campus hosts crawfish boil after 5p service



Downtown Campus writes "Foundation of Prayer" in Worship Center



Guys from The HUB Students at Cypress Campus go camping



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

## NEXTGEN MINISTRIES AT HOUSTON'S FIRST PRESENTS FAMILY NIGHT AT



**Fri, June 1 — Typhoon Texas (Katy)**

Families with kids (birth–12th grade) and their guests from every campus will enjoy the park all to ourselves!

**Tickets available at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)**

## PROMOTION SUNDAY

**Sun, June 3 — All Campuses**

Preschoolers, Children, and Students will move up to their new Life Bible Studies for the coming school year! Watch for info from the NextGen Team at your campus.



## ALL CAMPUSES

### HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays @ 11:30a–12:40p**  
**1010 Lamar (Suite 1250)**

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! This month, speakers are Executive Pastor David Self (May 9, 23, 30) and Next Generations Minister Doug Bischoff (May 16). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

### CANHOPE

**Mon, May 14 @ 6p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)**

Ministering to families touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner, prayer and to hear somebody's story. Beginning in May, we move to a new time — starting now at 6p. Houston's First member Diane Wells is our speaker this month, so bring a salad, vegetable or fruit and we'll provide the entrée. Everyone is welcome! RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

### SUMMIT RETREAT

**May 18–20 — Pineywoods Camp**

Young single adults are headed out of town for a weekend with the fun you crave and the spiritual connection and personal interaction you need. With worship led by The Porch Houston's Joy Hanna and teaching by Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, you won't want to miss it! Register now at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

### THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MOM CONFERENCE

**June 8–9 — The Loop Campus**

This national event takes place at The Loop Campus this year, and all women are invited to attend — single moms and single mom supporters, too. You will gain insight on parenting, finances, growing in Christ, letting the past go and more. Find speakers, childcare info and registration at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

### FIRST H.O.P.E. JOB TRAINING

**Sat, May 12**

This month's free career development training features guest speaker Mary Emami, MBA, Ph.D., speaking on the topic of LinkedIn. Please bring your laptop! Seating is limited so register early at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

**Sun, May 13 @ 12:30–2p**  
**The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)**

Single moms and their children are invited to a luncheon in your honor! Alessia Madkins will share from her experience as a single mom and we'll enjoy a great lunch and special music, too. Each mom will receive a gift basket filled with carefully selected and wrapped gifts from your child. (If your children are unable to attend, you will still receive a special gift!)

RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

### IMPACT CRAWFISH BOIL

**Sun, May 20 @ 1–4p**  
**Hunt Retreat, Brookshire, TX**

Impact Single Adults (late 30s, 40s and 50s) are getting together for our 4th Annual Impact Crawfish Boil at Hunt Retreat! The day includes live zydeco/country music by Peterbilt, games and plenty of crawfish, shrimp, sausage and non-seafood options available for lunch.

Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org

### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

**Begins Tue, May 22 — The Loop Campus**

Last year, over 1,200 people accepted the Summer Reading Challenge put forth by the library at CornerBooks! The library extends the challenge again this year, inviting you to get a "Ticket To Read" and have a chance at winning prizes, too. Visit CornerBooks or HoustonsFirst.org to accept the challenge!

CONTACT: Ann.Zallar@HoustonsFirst.org

### A HEART AFTER GOD

**Thursdays, June 7–21 @ 10a–Noon**  
**The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)**

What does it mean to be a woman after God's own heart? God is not looking for magnificent specimens of humanity, but deeply spiritual, genuinely humble, honest-to-the-core servants who have integrity. Marsha Taylor teaches this three-week class for women looking at what we can learn from the lives of Hannah, Ruth and Mary (Jesus' mother).

CONTACT: Heather.Cannolly@HoustonsFirst.org

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

### 5TH GRADE LAUNCH LUNCH

**Sun, May 20 @ 12:30–2:30p — Cypress Campus**

All current 5th graders and their families are invited for lunch to celebrate graduating from elementary school and moving from the First Kids ministry to The HUB Student ministry as a middle schooler! Come join the staff and friends on the back porch directly after the 11a service. RSVP to Cindy Wineman.

CONTACT: Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

### XEE: RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

**Every Wed, June 6–27 @ 6–8p**  
**Downtown Campus (Rm 214)**

XEE from Evangelism Explosion equips Jesus-followers to share the Gospel effectively in everyday encounters. In this four-week course taught by Downtown Campus Pastor Lee Hsia, you will learn and put into practice relevant, biblical and relational evangelism skills for our postmodern times. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

### FINDING YOUR PLACE IN LIFE & MINISTRY

**Every Wed, June 6–27 @ 7–8:30p**  
**Downtown Campus (Rm 217)**

This four-week course will help you discover how God has uniquely designed you to be a difference-maker among your family, friends, colleagues and community. We will cover topics such as personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions and life experiences. Following the course, you will have an opportunity to meet with a PLACE Coach to help you implement what you learn. Register at HoustonsFirst.org for \$10.

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

## ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

**Sat, May 19 @ 9a**  
**Willow Walk Townhomes Clubhouse**

We're inviting all ladies for a time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study! This event is free to attend, but we do ask that you pre-register. Go to HoustonsFirst.org to sign-up before Mon, May 14. The clubhouse is located at 9955 Kemp Forest Dr.

CONTACT: Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org

## SIENNA CAMPUS

### NEXTGEN PREVIEW DAY

**Sun, May 20**

All children entering 1st grade and 6th grade this fall will get a sneak peek of life in First Kids and The HUB before promotion Sunday on June 3. This preview will happen during their normal Life Bible Study hour on May 20.

CONTACT: Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org for First Kids

Jordan.Floro@HoustonsFirst.org for The HUB

### SUMMER NIGHTS OF FAMILY WORSHIP

**Wed, June 20 @ 6:30p — Sienna Worship Center**

The Sienna Campus family will gather on this Wednesday evening in June to worship together and hear a word from Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall. Childcare is available for 3 years and under, and all other ages are welcome to attend the worship service!

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

*Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!*

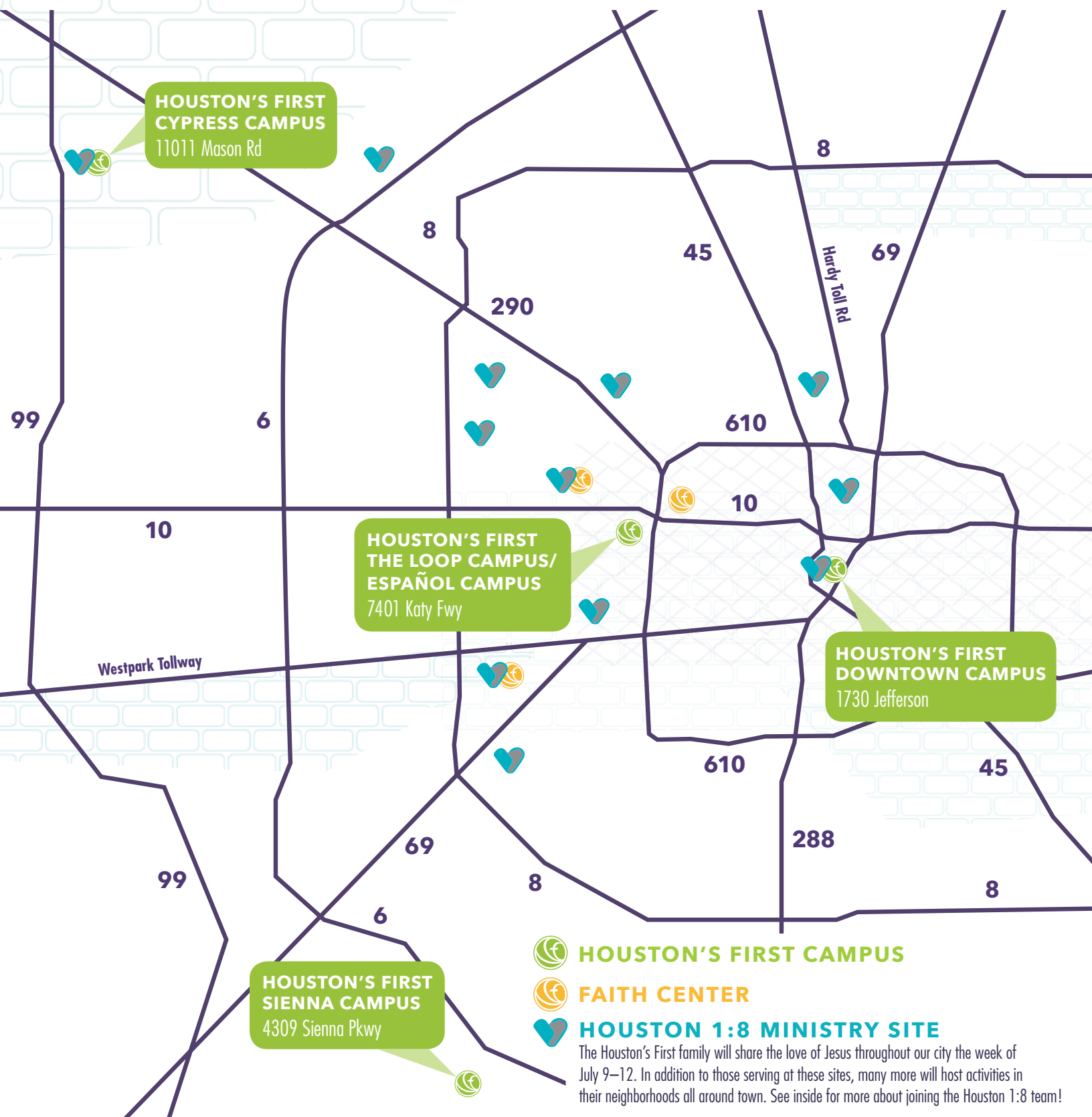
**Text HFBCAPP to 41411**

for links to download the Houston's First Baptist Church app for iOS or Android

Available on the Google play and App Store

# WHERE YOU'LL FIND US

Houston's First Baptist Church has numerous locations around town. But with members from all across the greater Houston area living out their faith and making a difference in their homes, schools and offices, the church's ministry extends far beyond the addresses listed below!



**HOUSTON'S FIRST CAMPUS**



**FAITH CENTER**



**HOUSTON 1:8 MINISTRY SITE**

The Houston's First family will share the love of Jesus throughout our city the week of July 9–12. In addition to those serving at these sites, many more will host activities in their neighborhoods all around town. See inside for more about joining the Houston 1:8 team!

## SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

### The Loop Campus

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p  
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p

### Cypress Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a  
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

### Downtown Campus

Worship 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

### Español Campus

Worship 9:15a  
Life Bible Studies 10:45a

### Sienna Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a

Gregg Matte, Pastor

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