

welcome.

AUG
2018

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

2 | Welcome to Houston's First! • Ministry Impact

3 | Growing Our Souls

4 | More Ways To Learn

5 | What's Happening?

6 | Where You'll Find Us



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

WELCOME!

When August arrives, the countdown to the first day of school seems to grow louder and louder. Parents and kids make plans and shopping lists to ensure they are ready to go when the new school year gets underway—whether it's PreK or the last year of college. As adults know, however, learning doesn't end when we put away our notebooks, hang up our backpacks, and walk away from school for the last time.

The same is true in our relationship with Jesus. Accepting Him as our Savior is not the final exam—it's actually a new beginning! Followers of Jesus are on a life-long journey of learning more about the Bible, what it means to be His ambassador, and how we can live out our faith every day. If we live to be 100, we will still have more to learn about Him and His Word.

Fortunately, Houston's First is passionate about equipping people for continual growth in their faith. As students head back to school, this edition of the Welcome Guide looks at the many ways His followers can continue learning, too. Details can be found at HoustonFirst.org, so I encourage you to get online and look over the options like an excited incoming freshman imagining all the possibilities while exploring the college course catalog!

"The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it."

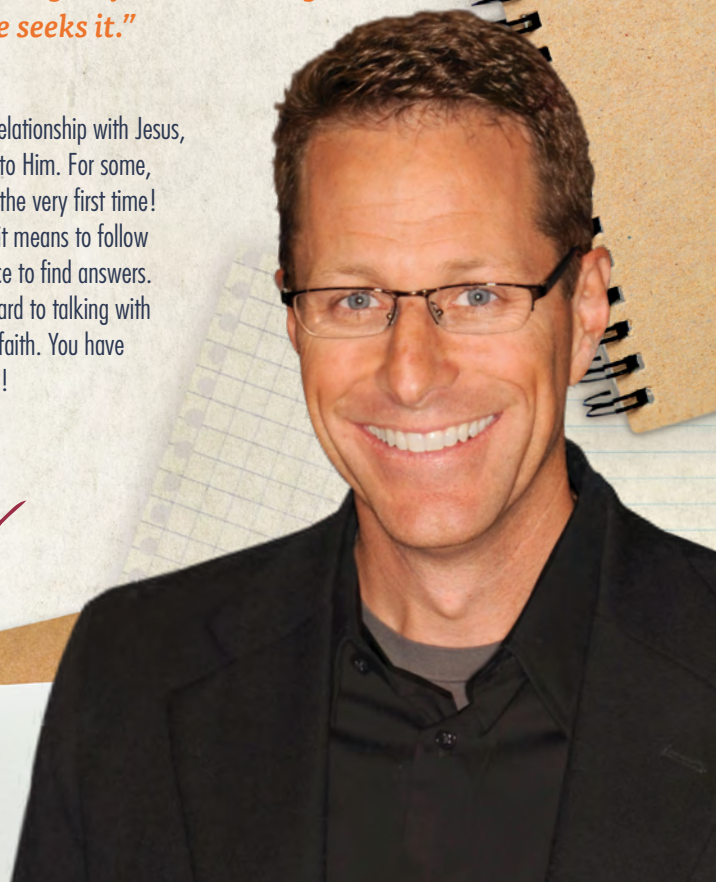
– Proverbs 18:15

No matter where you are in your relationship with Jesus, I pray that you are growing closer to Him. For some, that might mean meeting Him for the very first time! If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, you've come to a great place to find answers. Our staff and volunteers look forward to talking with you about Jesus and the Christian faith. You have my word—there is no final exam!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

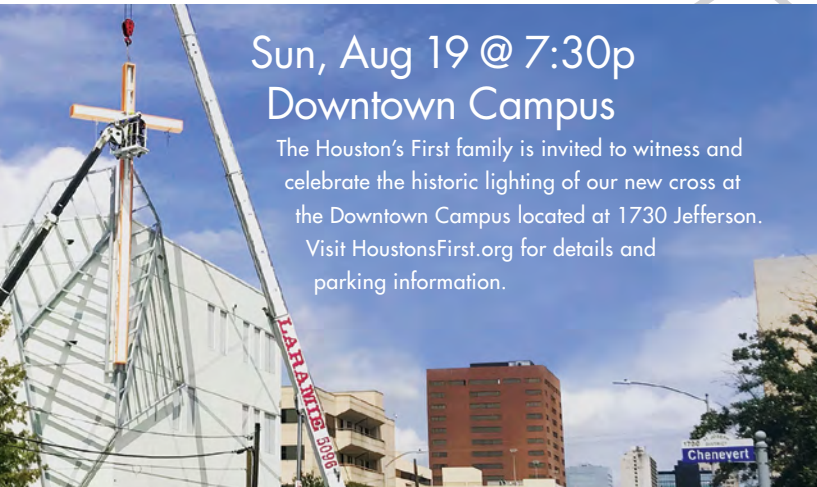
Pastor Gregg Matte



DOWNTOWN CROSS LIGHTING

Sun, Aug 19 @ 7:30p
Downtown Campus

The Houston's First family is invited to witness and celebrate the historic lighting of our new cross at the Downtown Campus located at 1730 Jefferson. Visit HoustonFirst.org for details and parking information.



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5 (ESV)

IGNITE



Initiated in 2017 by parents and students at Houston's First, IGNITE is a night of families, food trucks, fun and prayer to IGNITE the school year with faith, hope and love at area high schools.

Visit HoustonFirst.org or text IGNITE to 41411 for locations and dates for this August and September, and pray for these gatherings to have a positive impact on the campuses involved!

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–JULY 29, 2018

DECISIONS

48 New Church Members
7 Joined by Baptism



14% of New Members were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

24,359 in Life Bible Studies
(4,872 weekly average)
23,005 in Worship Services
(4,601 weekly average)
4,135 on Webcast
(827 weekly average)

MISSIONS

8 Mission Trips with
1,842 Team Members



GENEROSITY

2,879 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
94 First-Time Givers

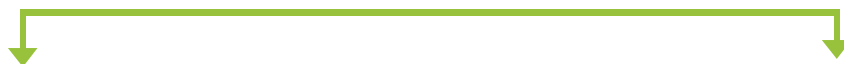


3% of Givers Gave for the First Time

GROWING OUR SOULS

At Houston's First, we gather our hearts in worship services and special events, and we give our lives through missions, volunteering, prayer, evangelism and finances. We also grow our souls. The Grow Strategy was designed to help us deepen our walk with Christ, be transformed by His likeness, surrender further to His

Lordship, thirst for His Word and love Him more deeply. The primary tools of our Grow Strategy are Life Bible Studies and Milestones. As the school year gets underway, the Houston's First family is encouraged to "go back to school" and take advantage of these opportunities to discover, learn, and grow—and connect with others.



LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are weekly gatherings available for all ages. Once referred to as Sunday School, they offer a place for regular study of the Bible. Beyond that, Life Bible Studies help make our large church feel smaller. This is where friendships are made and community is formed. Your fellow Life Bible Study members are there to celebrate each other's victories, comfort each other in times of loss, and encourage each other through life's challenges.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Across our five campuses, there are approximately 296 Life Bible Studies. Of those, 137 are for people over the age of 18. Life Bible Studies are provided by our Grow Team ministries. While there may not be specific Life Bible Studies for each age or stage of life at every campus, staff members and volunteers can help you find one to attend!

- Preschool & Kindergarten
- Children
- Students
- Special Needs
- College
- Young Single Adults
- Single Adults
- Single Parent Families
- Married Young Adults
- Adults (Late 30s—Mid 50s, 56—75, 76+)
- Men
- Women

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Life Bible Studies are open to all ages, regardless of whether you are a member of the church or not. All you have to do is show up!

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Guest Experience team and church staff members at your campus can point you to Life Bible Study options for you and your family members to consider.



Milestones is a framework for adult discipleship that extends beyond Life Bible Studies to equip people in a particular stage of life, crisis, or in general discipleship. This is accomplished through semester-long courses, one-time classes, and special events. Many Milestones take place at each campus during MidLink—our name for Wednesday evening programming—but they can also be offered on other days and times during the week.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

About 70 different Milestones opportunities are offered during the fall 2018 semester across our five campuses. Here are a few examples reflecting the variety of topics:

- 5 Love Languages
- 12 Points That Show Christianity Is True
- Birds & Bees: Oh Help Me Please!
- Cultivating a Heart for Prayer
- Discerning the Voice of God
- Financial Peace University
- Genesis: Precept Upon Precept
- Goliath Must Fall
- Legacy 685: Equipping and Sustaining Families
- Loving Our Kids on Purpose
- Modern Day Slavery: Fighting Human Trafficking in Our Backyard
- Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
- Practical Evangelism
- Raising Grateful Children in an Entitled World
- Roles of a Man
- Special Dads / Special Moms

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Milestones are open to church members and non-members. In fact, they are a great way to introduce somebody to Houston's First and the life-changing power of the Gospel. You can participate in Milestones at any campus, regardless of which campus you attend on Sundays.

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Milestones address a wide variety of topics and needs, so the "right one" for you depends on where you are in life and in your relationship with Jesus.

THEY GIVE. WE GROW.

Our Life Bible Studies and Milestones are led by volunteers who are giving life away so we can grow our souls.

HOW WILL YOU GROW?

Text GROW to 41411 for a list of Life Bible Studies and Milestones offered at your campus.

make it your church

ORIENTATION



People often have questions before they join a church. Some may even have questions after they join as they seek to know their church better. So, whether you've just recently visited or recently joined Houston's First, we invite you to discover what it means to be

a member here at Make It Your Church Orientation. Learn about our mission, vision, ministries, and more while you meet staff members and find answers to your questions. Register at HoustonsFirst.org for an upcoming session at your campus.

THE LOOP (SUN, SEP 30) • CYPRESS (SUN, SEP 30)
DOWNTOWN (SUN, AUG 12 & SUN, SEP 30)
ESPAÑOL (SUN, AUG 19) • SIENNA (SUN, SEP 30)

ReFuel

PARENTING WITH PURPOSE

Presented by **axis**

SAT, AUG 25 @ 9A-NOON — THE LOOP CAMPUS

ReFuel your parenting (or grandparenting) at this conference for those who lead, influence and love kids high school and younger. Presented by Axis (axis.org), the conference will feature topics related to purity, teaching your kids about sex, gender identity, social media, technology and more. It is appropriate for parents of kids of ALL ages! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for childcare availability and to register for the conference.

Legacy 685

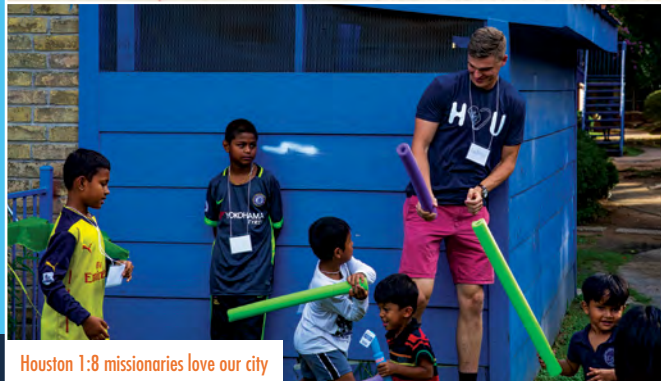
KICK-OFF LUNCHES

As Legacy 685 Adoption, Foster and Orphan Care Ministry celebrates 10 years at Houston's First, we're expanding to our Cypress and Sienna Campuses. Adoptive and foster families—and those going through or interested in the process—are invited to learn more about Legacy 685 at these kick-off lunches. We also invite people who may want to volunteer with the ministry, too. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to RSVP and to read the "Celebrating 10 Years of Legacy" story.

Sienna Campus – Sun, Aug 19 @ 12:30p
 Cypress Campus – Sun, Sep 9 @ 12:30p

10th
 ANNIVERSARY

JULY MOMENTS



Houston 1:8 missionaries love our city



The HUB Students serve during Rush Week



Choir & Orchestra sing and serve in Costa Rica



Women and girls learn self-defense at The Loop Campus



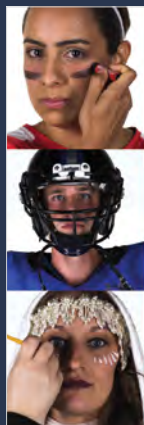
Sienna hosts Summer SplashFest for their community

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?



Refuge
Women's Retreat 2018

Women from every campus will be reminded that God is a safe place to be
Oct 19-20 — The Omni Westside | Register at HoustonsFirst.org



Celebration CAST & CREW

Before the show, during the show, on stage, or behind the scenes — what position will you play on Team Celebration? Visit TheFirstChristmas.org or text CELEBRATION to 41411 to review the options and join the team!

Seven Presentations • Dec 6-9

ALL CAMPUSES

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speakers in coming weeks include Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Aug 8, 15, 29) and Missions Associate Gabriel Ianculovici (Aug 22). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

MINISTER & DEACON ORDINATION

Sun, Aug 12 @ 2p — The Loop Campus (Worship Center)

The Houston's First family is invited to this special gathering as several church members are ordained as ministers of the Gospel or as Deacons at our church. For a full list of those being ordained, visit the event listing at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Pam.Collins@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Aug 13 @ 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. Our guest speaker for August is Harry Molter, so bring a salad, vegetable or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Wednesdays beginning Aug 29 @ 6:30-9p
The Loop Campus (Rm 145)

Stephen Ministry training equips our members through 50 hours of classes to come alongside an individual who is experiencing loneliness, relationship difficulties, loss, divorce, grief or spiritual crisis in their lives. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, fill out an application by Sun, Aug 26, at HoustonsFirst.org or by texting STEPHEN to 41411 for a link.

CONTACT: Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY CAMP

Sep 14-16 — Pineywoods Camp

Single parents and their kids are invited to our annual camp designed just for them! We'll play hard, but we'll also dive deep into the Word and grow closer to the One who loves us. For our kids, our counselors will lead small groups and cheering them on as they accomplish activities they never thought possible. No matter what your child's age, they will love Single Parent Family Camp — and so will you! Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF ESTATE PLANNING

Sun, Aug 12 @ 12:30-2:30p

The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

Adults of all ages and stages of life are invited to this free seminar led by Robert Kuck of PhilanthroCorp. Houston's First partners with nonprofit PhilanthroCorp to provide free estate planning for our congregation. A light lunch is provided, and childcare is available for birth through 5th grade. Registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org

MILESTONES & MIDLINK PREVIEW NIGHT WITH JUSTIN FLOM

Wed, Aug 22 @ 5:45-8p — The Loop Campus

Magician Justin Flom is coming to Milestones & MidLink Preview Night as we kick-off another semester at The Loop Campus! Come early for dinner (4:45p) and the Milestones Expo (5:45p) and stay for a fun and free show by magician Justin Flom at 6:45p! Find the full schedule at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Jenny.Sheets@HoustonsFirst.org

FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH ORIENTATION

Sun, Aug 26 @ 4-5p — The Loop Campus (Rm 258)

First Place 4 Health is a Christ-centered weight loss and healthy living program focusing on four essentials of health and well-being: the mind, emotions, body, and spirit! See how putting God first can lead to successful weight loss, learn how God calls Christians to be physically fit, and understand the positive effect good nutrition and exercise have on our emotions and spirit.

CONTACT: Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

Saturdays, Sep 9-Oct 13 @ 7:30a-2p

Individuals, families, and groups are invited to serve at the Houston's First build site this fall! Volunteers can come out to build on any Saturday from Sep 9-Oct 13 — every week or just one time. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to learn about the requirements and to register for a build day (or multiple days) this fall!

CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonsFirst.org

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

Develop friendships and learn about other cultures by opening your heart to international students and scholars during their time of university study in Houston. Attend a one-time orientation at The Loop Campus to learn about becoming a friendship partner with a student from the University of Houston. Contact Marie Downing or visit HoustonsFirst.org for orientation times and information.

CONTACT: Marie.Downing@flash.net

CYPRESS CAMPUS

OPERATION BACKPACK

Now-Aug 19

Help provide backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies for Pre-K-12th grade students associated with many of our Cypress-area ministry partners. Through Sun, Aug 19, drop off donations in the Cypress Campus Main Foyer Mon-Fri during office hours or on Sunday mornings. A list of requested school supplies and backpack requirements is available at the Opportunities Table or online at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Sun, Aug 26 @ Noon-2p — Cypress Campus

Come have one last summer hurrah before going back to school! Wear your school colors and join your church family for Kick-Off Sunday with bounce houses, lunch from PDQ, volleyball and basketball tournaments, a cake walk, Sports Quest soccer, and much, much more! It's free and fun for the whole family, so invite a friend or neighbor!

CONTACT: Paige.Swiggart@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

CROSS LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Sun, Aug 19 @ 7:30p — Downtown Campus

The Houston's First family is invited to celebrate the official lighting of our large new cross on the Downtown Campus facility at 1730 Jefferson! Be there for the historic moment when this symbol of Jesus' love lights up in the heart of our city — a reminder that new starts now when we believe in Him! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and parking information.

CONTACT: Derek.Nease@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE WEEK

Aug 26-31

College is back in session and you can help our church connect with incoming freshmen and returning students! From ice cream, to moving in, to laser tag, to follow up — everyone can be a part of this effort! Interested? Tell Director of College Ministry Jarret Garber!

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

MIDLINK KICK-OFF

Wed, Aug 29 @ 6:30-8p

On Wednesday evenings this fall, we will continue our study on the book of 2 Corinthians. Register in the Chapel after our 9:15a worship service on Sundays, or online at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

VIVA LIBRE

Every other Thursday, Aug 30-Nov 8 @ 6:30-8p

The Loop Campus (Garden Rm)

Ladies, this class will help you better understand the meaning of freedom in Christ! During this semester, you will learn how to replace the "false strength" with the true freedom in Christ and discover the life that God wants you to have in Him. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details.

CONTACT: Josie.Alaniz@icloud.com

SIENNA CAMPUS

MIDLINK KICK-OFF

Wed, Aug 29 @ 6:30-8p — Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

What does the Sienna Campus have to offer this fall during MidLink on Wednesday nights? Come find out on this fun night as we kick-off the semester!

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

FALL 2018 MILESTONES

Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and to register for one of our many Milestones classes available this fall for women (The Patriarchs by Beth Moore, Living Out Loud), men (This is Real Life), and all adults (Defending Your Faith, Practical Evangelism, Financial Planning, Trauma Competent Caregiver, Loving Our Kids on Purpose).

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

Visit 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

Available on the 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!

THE LOOP CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirst [t](#) @HoustonsFirst [i](#) @HoustonsFirst

CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstCypress [t](#) @HFBCcypress [i](#) @HFBCcypress

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HFBCDowntown [t](#) @HFBCDowntown [i](#) @HFBCDowntown

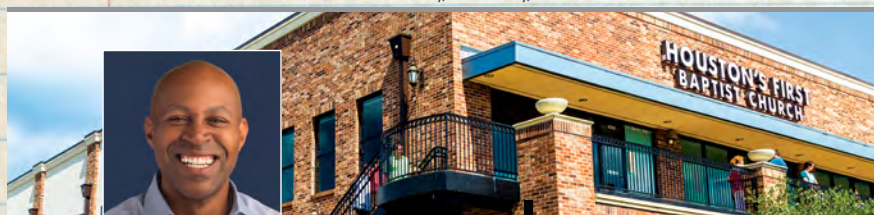
ESPAÑOL CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Juan Alaniz, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstEspañol [t](#) @HFBCEspañol [i](#) @HFBCEspañol

SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstSienna [t](#) @HFBCSienna [i](#) @HFBCSienna

OUR SIGNATURE STATEMENT

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant biblical community where people gather their hearts, grow their souls and give their lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20).

RELEVANT

Having the passion, desire and ability to build necessary bridges to move people from culture to Christ.

BIBLICAL

Fully embracing the beliefs and values revealed in the Bible as true, eternal and life-changing.

COMMUNITY

Providing a place to be authentic, involved, impacted and impactful.

JOINING HOUSTON'S FIRST

Membership at Houston's First is open to anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and has been baptized by immersion at our church or by a body of believers of like faith and practice. If you have not already done so, we can assist you with these decisions. At the end of the worship service, come forward to speak with a minister or volunteer, or make your way to the Connection Center at your campus. They will walk you through the process of making Houston's First your church!

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others in smaller settings and growing together at Houston's First. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to explore the many options, or ask a Guest Experience Team member at your campus for assistance in finding one that's right for you.

For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit HoustonsFirst.org.

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