

# welcome.

2019  
MAY

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



BE A MISSIONARY TO YOUR OWN CITY

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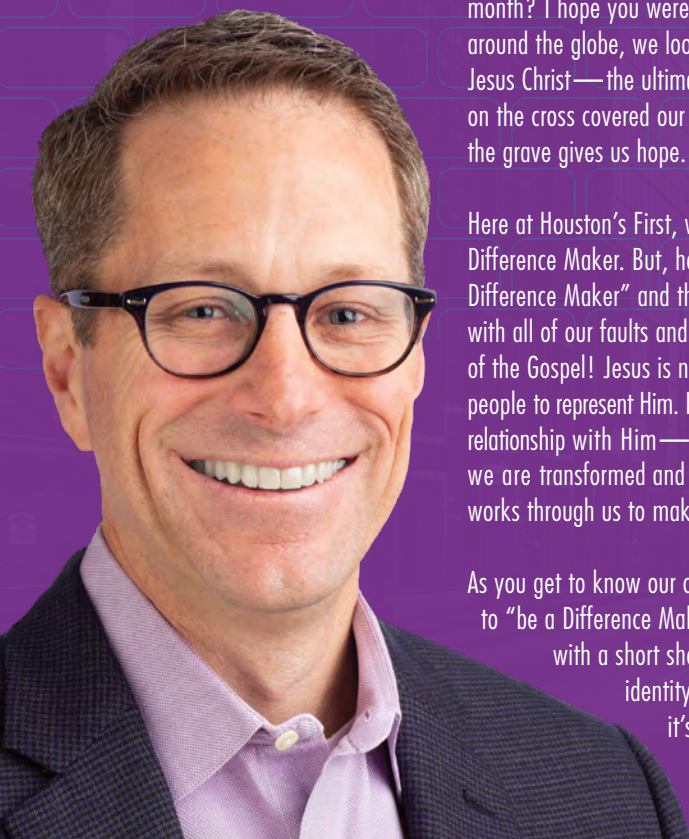
EVENINGS OF  
JULY 8-11



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

[HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)





Were you able to celebrate Easter at Houston's First last month? I hope you were. Like billions of other worshippers around the globe, we looked at the life and impact of Jesus Christ—the ultimate Difference Maker. His sacrifice on the cross covered our sins, and His resurrection from the grave gives us hope. Death has lost its sting!

Here at Houston's First, we talk a lot about being a Difference Maker. But, how can we call Jesus “the ultimate Difference Maker” and then expect to be one ourselves with all of our faults and weaknesses? That's the beauty of the Gospel! Jesus is not looking for so-called perfect people to represent Him. He invites each one of us into a relationship with Him—exactly as we are—and then we are transformed and equipped as the Holy Spirit works through us to make a difference in His name.

As you get to know our church, you'll realize that this call to “be a Difference Maker” is not just a slogan or initiative with a short shelf life. Rather, it's a part of our identity as a community of believers—and it's nothing unique to our church or new to Christianity, either. All

followers of Jesus are called to be different than the world around us, and to make a difference by telling others about Him and loving them as He does.

No matter where you are in your faith, I'm glad you're here at Houston's First. I invite you to ask staff members or volunteers any questions you might have about our church or what it means to follow Jesus, and to connect with a Life Bible Study, too. You will find Houston's First to be a place where people are growing in their faith, living it out, and willing to come alongside you as you take the next step in your relationship with the ultimate Difference Maker.

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg*

Pastor Gregg Matte

## SKEPTIC SERIES

Having faith does not mean an absence of questions or doubts. Rather, our beliefs are strengthened and deepened as we seek answers to questions instead of avoiding them. Jesus said, “Seek, and you will find” (Matthew 7:7) and that's what we'll do during this four-week apologetics series with biblical experts while Pastor Gregg is on his sabbatical. As they address common topics and questions, they'll provide answers you or someone you know might be seeking about the Christian faith and what it means to follow Jesus.

Text SKEPTIC to 41411 to learn more and to receive a reminder when the series is about to begin.

Series runs June 16–July 7 at our Sienna Campus



**SUN, JUNE 9**

**Jeremiah Johnston**, BA, MA, MDiv, PhD  
President of Christian Thinkers Society



**SUN, JUNE 16**

**Lee Strobel**  
Author of *The Case for Christ*



**SUN, JUNE 23**

**Craig A. Evans**, BA, MA, MDiv, PhD, DHabil  
Houston Baptist University  
John Bisagno Distinguished Professor  
of Christian Origins



**SUN, JUNE 30**

**Philip Nation**, BA, MDiv, DMin  
Houston Baptist University  
Assistant Professor of Leadership  
and Biblical Studies



# HOUSTON 1:8

## One Church. Five Campuses. Many Ways To Reach Our City. Evenings of July 8-11

*The people of Houston's First have been **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** for the Gospel ever since our founding days 178 years ago. One way of doing that is through evangelism and missional endeavors—being intentional about connecting with people and sharing the Good News. For more than 20 years, the Houston's First family has rallied together during Houston 1:8 to do just that.*

Our church sends over 30 mission teams on trips around the country and around the world each year. Among them all, Houston 1:8 is our largest mission trip. Rather than hopping on a plane, 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.

Ministry doesn't end there, however. Connections made during Houston 1:8 often extend well-beyond that one week in July. As the Lord leads, individuals, Life Bible Studies, or entire campuses continue to serve the people they meet throughout the year. Houston 1:8 missionaries often discover a passion to serve and realize that they truly can make a difference.

### What makes Houston 1:8 special?

- 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.

So, where will you serve during Houston 1:8 this year? There are many roles to play as each campus reaches out to the community through different types of ministry – Vacation Bible School, sports camps, adult Bible studies, neighborhood events, and so many more. You are sure to find a way that you can be a Difference Maker!



### ABOUT HOUSTON 1:8

- Evenings of July 8-11
- Activities vary by campus
- All ages can serve
- Training is provided

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

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 23 is the absolute last day to join!

## MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–APR 28, 2019

677 New Church Members  
101 Joined by Baptism

15% of New Members  
were Baptized

### ATTENDANCE

212,650 in Life Bible Studies  
(5,063 weekly average)  
225,024 in Worship Services  
(5,114 weekly average)  
41,054 on Webcast  
(933 weekly average)

30 Mission Trips with  
2,295 Team Members



### GENEROSITY

5,140 Givers to  
Great Commission Fund  
784 First-Time Givers

15% of Givers Gave  
for First Time





# First Snapshot SURVEY

Houston's First is partnering with Docent Research Group to take a "snapshot" of our church family.

Rather than a camera, we're using a survey to capture this moment in the life of our church focusing on our beliefs, practices, experiences, and more. The intent is to see where we are now, and then take another look after time has passed to see how we've changed.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

- It takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.
- It is completely anonymous.
- All questions are multiple-choice format.
- Depending on your answer to certain questions, you might be presented with an open-ended question asking for your feedback.

## TAKE THE SURVEY

There are several ways to find and complete the survey:

- Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)
- Go to the Houston's First app
- Text SNAPSHOT to 41411
- Follow your campus on social media

# summer fun is coming!

Summer is just around the corner! It's never too late to plan ahead, or to invite people to come with you. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for details and to sign up for the following opportunities.

**Pine Cove: Camp in the City** | June 3–7 – Sienna Campus  
**Camp Intersect** | June 9–12 – Carolina Creek Christian Camp  
**Sports Quest Soccer Camp** | June 17–21 – Cypress Campus  
**Cypress Campus Middle School Camp** | June 17–21 – Highland Lakes Camp  
**Vacation Bible School** | June 24–27 – The Loop Campus  
**Vacation Bible School** | June 24–27 – Cypress Campus  
**Sienna Campus Preteen Camp** | June 27–30 – Highland Lakes Camp  
**H1:8 Sports Camp** | July 8–11 – Cypress Campus  
**Rush Week** | July 19–25 – Panama City Beach, FL  
**Discover252 – T Bar M Day Camp** | July 29–Aug 2 – Cypress Campus



**Are you considering a Christian education for your child, or know somebody who is?**

First Baptist Academy, located at The Loop Campus of Houston's First, equips students with the Truth of God's Word while developing their character, intellect and potential to Explore, Create, Challenge,

and Lead. PreK3–8th Grade applications are being accepted now for the 2019–2020 school year. Reach out to the Admissions Office at [admissions@hfbfa.org](mailto:admissions@hfbfa.org) or 713.290.2522 for more details and to learn about church member discounts and available financial assistance.

**First Baptist**  
20 YEARS • ACADEMY

Providing Christian Education  
for Infants–8th Grade

ISAS Accredited  
713.290.2500 | [fbahouston.org](http://fbahouston.org)

## APRIL MOMENTS



Español Campus Pastor Juan Alaniz interviews Astros at Faith & Family Night



Women gather for the Age of Crowns conference at the Downtown Campus



Cypress women make custom creations at the refresh woodshop workshop



Houston's First family members spotted around town in Difference Maker T-shirts



Lots of fun and games at Mother/Son Date Night at the Sienna Campus



Kids at the Spring Weekend of Choir present their musical at The Loop Campus



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

**NEXTGEN MINISTRIES AT HOUSTON'S FIRST PRESENTS SUMMER KICKOFF AT**



**Fri, May 31 @ 6:30–9:30p — Typhoon Texas (Katy)**

NextGen families (birth–12th grade) from every campus are kicking off summer with Typhoon Texas all to ourselves!

**Find details and tickets at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org), or text SPLASH to 41411 for a link.**

## PROMOTION SUNDAY

**Sun, June 2 — 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, or contact them if you have questions.



## ALL CAMPUSES

### HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speaking this month is Executive Pastor David Self (May 8, 22), Minister to Adults Tim Young (May 15) and Minister of Missionary Care & Projects Skyler Womack (May 29). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

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

**Sat, May 11 @ 9a–Noon — The Loop Campus (Rm 249)**

First H.O.P.E. helps people find jobs or improve their current employment. At this month's gathering, guest speaker Curtis Swisher will speak about stress management. Seating is limited so register early for this free event at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org

### CANHOPE

**Mon, May 13 @ 6–8p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)**

Ministering to families touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner and prayer. This month's speaker is cancer survivor Melissa Rickenbacher with special music by Keri Lilley. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

### SUMMIT RETREAT

**May 17–19 — Pineywoods Camp**

Summit Young Singles (20s/30s) will slow down and unplug at this weekend experience that incorporates the essential elements of life we all seek—authentic faith, genuine friendship, and great fun! Come enjoy God's beautiful creation, take a break from normal routines, and spend time refocusing on God and people. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

### IMPACT CRAWFISH BOIL

**Sat, May 18 @ Noon–6p  
Hunt Retreat, Brookshire, TX**

Impact Singles (late 30s, 40s and 50s) will come together for fun and relaxation with live music by Peterbilt, games, and plenty to eat throughout the day—including crawfish, shrimp, hamburgers, chicken, salad and more! Relax by the river, explore the grounds, fish, play volleyball, sit on the porch, or hang out inside and play games. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for \$15 thru Sun, May 12, \$20 thru Fri, May 17, or pay \$25 at the door.

CONTACT: Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

### MIDLINK AT THE MOVIES

**Wed, May 8 @ 6:30–8:30p  
The Loop Campus (Chapel)**

Wednesday evening Milestones classes wrapped up on Wed, May 1. This week, come for a free showing of the movie *War Room* at 6:30p—we'll provide the popcorn! Come early for MidLink Café (4:45–6:15p) and send kids to NextGen Ministry programs for ages 18 and under. Watch the movie trailer at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Geniffer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

**Sun, May 12 @ 12:15–2p  
The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)**

Single moms—the Single Parent Families Ministry hosts this special day to let your children celebrate you as a mom! After lunch, your children will be dismissed to prepare a special treat for you while you hear from Alessia Madkins, LPC, who formerly walked the road as a single mom. You'll walk away knowing you are not alone and just how much God sees and knows your situation! Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

### HOMEBOUND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**Sun, May 19 @ 1p — The Loop Campus (Rm 145)**

Through periodic visits, cards, phone calls, and literature, Homebound Volunteers minister to those in our church family who are confined to their home or a continual care facility for extended periods of time. At this volunteer training, you will learn how to minister to this special part of our congregation. Lunch will be provided! RSVP to 713.957.6761.

CONTACT: Debbie.Portilla@HoustonsFirst.org

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

### CALLED: WOMEN'S SUMMER SERIES

**Tuesdays, June 4, 11 & 18 @ 9:30–11:30a  
or 6:30–8:30p — Cypress Campus**

You, as a daughter of God, have been called and invited to serve your Heavenly Father right where you are in whatever stage, season, or situation you are in today. Gather with other women as we learn how to freely live out the calling He has given us. Register to attend at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). Childcare available during morning session only with registration.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 24–27 @ 9a–12:30p — Cypress Campus**

Throw on your camera strap and buckle your seatbelt! VBS takes kids on a wild adventure—with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles. As they seek out exotic animals, kids will also find snapshots of real-life encounters with Jesus in Scripture. They'll go from bewildered to believing as they get *In The Wild* at our very first Cypress VBS! Register your child (born by Dec 31, 2014 thru entering 5th grade) at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

### QUESTIONING CHRISTIANITY

**Wednesdays thru June 12 @ 6:30–8p  
Downtown Campus (Rm 207)**

Houston's First is a community that wants to listen to and engage with the questions and doubts of our friends. This 7-week series will feature video teaching by author/speaker Tim Keller, and we will dive into various questions about Christianity. To learn more about the series and to register, visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org). To learn more about the series, visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

## ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

### CONVIVIO PARA HOMBRES: MEN'S NIGHT

**Wed, May 15 @ 7p  
The Loop Campus (Garden Rm)**

Men from the Español Campus are coming together for a night of fellowship, food and fun. It's the perfect opportunity to invite a guest and introduce him to the church, too!

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

## SIENNA CAMPUS

### JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR

**(Ages 3 years through Kindergarten)  
Sun, May 19 — Sienna Campus**

Our littles ones at the Sienna Campus will lead us in worship during all three worship services (8:30a, 9:45a, and 11:15a). Come be encouraged by the Joyful Noise choir (ages 3 years and up) and encourage them, too!

CONTACT: Fraisy.George@HoustonsFirst.org

### BABYSITTER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

**Sat, June 1 @ 9a–3p — Sienna Campus (The Corner)**

Trusted, certified, well-trained babysitters are a huge blessing to foster families and the children in their care. Attend this training for family or close friends to care for children in a specific foster family so the foster parents can get away for a few hours. The training is led by Amber Knowles, Executive Director of Fostering Family. Participants must be connected to a foster family prior to attending the certification class. Register online at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: Legacy685@HoustonsFirst.org

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

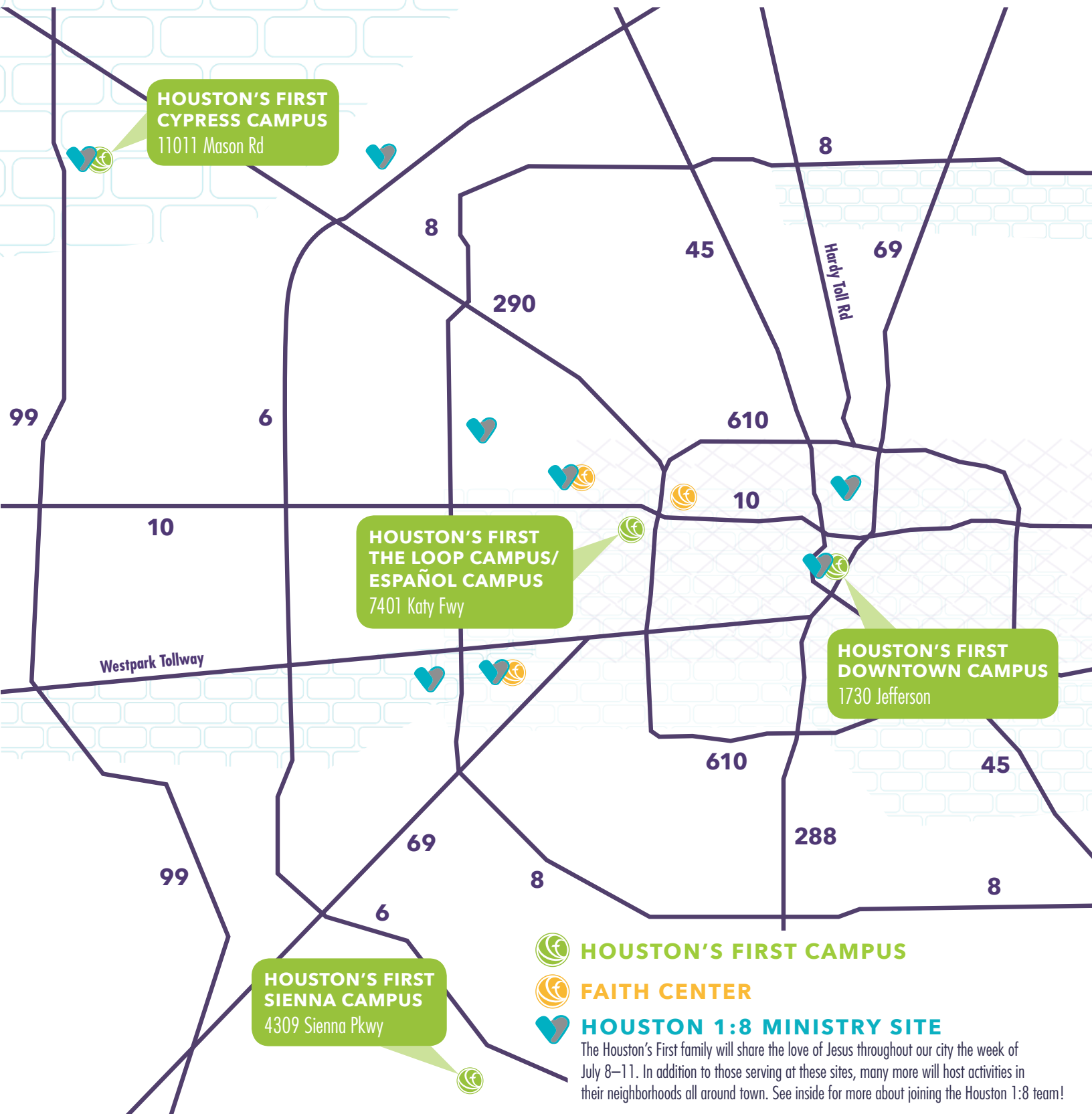
**Text HFBCAPP to 41411**  
for links to download the Houston's First Baptist Church app for iOS or Android

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!



## 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 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a  
Life Bible Studies 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a

Gregg Matte, Pastor [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)

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