

JUNE 2019

welcome.

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

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summer fun
IS HERE! pg 3



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

welcome to houston's first!



Summer has officially arrived at Houston's First, and in more ways than one! For starters, June is when our NextGen Ministries welcome our 18-and-under members and guests to their new Life Bible Studies for the coming school year. At the same time, our NextGen staff and volunteers are buzzing with plans for camps, VBS, Rush Week, and other activities taking place throughout the summer months.

Summer is also a season for mission trips, with 14 teams from Houston's First headed to 10 nations on five continents between now and the end of August. Our largest mission trip of the year, however, is right here at home—Houston 1:8. The week of July 8–11, missionaries from every campus will serve our neighbors and share the Gospel at dozens of locations throughout the greater Houston area.

The month of June brings a change to my schedule, too. The Houston's First family graciously allows me to take an annual sabbatical—a time to rest, study, and pray for the year ahead. My sabbatical begins on June 3, and I'll return to the office on

July 8. While I am away, you'll hear from biblical scholars in our much-anticipated Skeptic series as they address common doubts about Christianity. Join me in praying for these messages to encourage

believers in their faith, and to open the hearts of skeptics to receive the Gospel.

Let's commit to continue pressing forward in our individual walks with the Lord during the summer. Going on vacation? Take it *with* Him, not away from Him. (That's how I approach my sabbatical.) Juggling kids and their schedules? Find joy in watching them grow, and pray for lessons to be learned and friends to be made. Working through the summer months? Ask God how you can best reflect Him among your co-workers or clients. Also, consider adding *Difference Makers* to your summer reading list. The book includes stories of people from the Bible and from our own church family who have made a difference as they've allowed God to work through them.

I look forward to seeing you in July and hearing how God has moved through our church family to impact lives for the Gospel—at home, at work, at church, and everywhere in between!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

SKEPTIC SERIES

During this four-week apologetics series, biblical experts will address common questions about Christianity and provide answers you or someone you know might be seeking about the faith and what it means to follow Jesus. The series runs June 9–30 at The Loop, Cypress, and Downtown Campuses, and June 16–July 7 at the Español and Sienna Campuses.

Text SKEPTIC to 41411 to learn more about these experts and to find additional resources.



WEEK 1

"Does Absolute Truth Exist?"

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



WEEK 2

"Does Science Disprove God?"

Lee Strobel
Author of *The Case for Christ*



WEEK 3

"Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence"

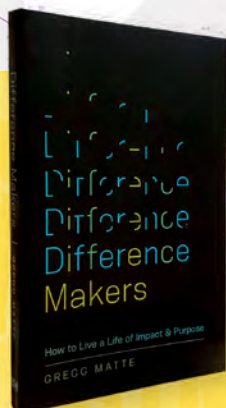
Craig A. Evans, BA, MA, MDiv, PhD, DHabil
Houston Baptist University
John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins



WEEK 4

"Is God There and Does It Even Matter? Answers for Atheists, Agnostics, and the 'Nones'"

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



Difference Makers How to Live a Life of Impact & Purpose

In his latest book, Pastor Gregg Matte reminds us that the first step to being a difference maker is having a difference made in ourselves through the power of the Gospel. Once God makes that difference in your life, you are ready to go in Jesus' name to play your part in changing the world. Are you ready to jump in? Are you ready to make the Difference Maker Declaration?

Difference Makers is available now from CornerBooks and other retailers.

CornerBooks

HOUSTON 1:8

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

The Houston's First family has a big heart for sharing the Gospel and going on mission trips. But, instead of hopping on a plane to a distant land, missionaries from our church simply hop in their cars and go across town (or just across their street) to share the love and truth of Jesus during Houston 1:8—our mission trip to our city.

Ministry doesn't end there, with connections extending well-beyond Houston 1:8. Throughout the year and as the Lord leads, individuals, Life Bible Studies, and entire campuses continue to serve the people they meet during that one week

in July. Houston 1:8 missionaries often discover a passion to serve and realize that they truly can make a difference in our community.

Where will you serve during Houston 1:8? 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.

So, put the passport aside and sign up to be a missionary right here at home!



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
- 2 Visit the Houston's First app
- 3 Text **HOUSTON18** to **41411**

Sun, June 23 is the absolute last day to join!

summer fun IS HERE!

Add some fun to your kid's summer with these opportunities at Houston's First! Make it even more fun by inviting friends to come along, too. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and to sign up soon!

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

Guitar Camp | July 8-12 — School of Fine Arts at The Loop Campus

Rush Week | July 19-25 — Panama City Beach, FL

Discover252 – T Bar M Day Camp | July 29-Aug 2 — Cypress Campus

OUR GREAT COMMISSION FUND

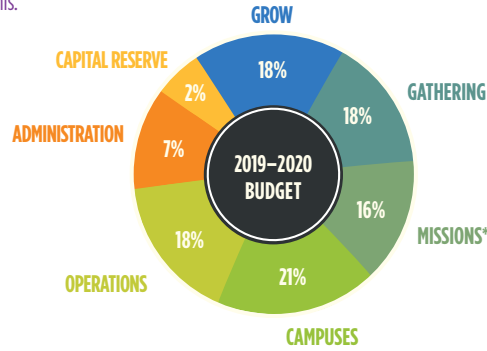
Each year, Houston's First Baptist Church adopts an annual operating budget—our Great Commission Fund. The budget helps the church to conduct ministry while maintaining accountability and stewardship over the resources the Lord has entrusted us with through the generosity of the Houston's First family and other contributors to the ministry of our church.

The budget process for fiscal year 2019–2020 started in February with five individuals from Financial Services and Operations reviewing three years of actual expenditures for approximately 60 church departments/ministries. Meetings were then conducted with the departments/ministries to determine the budget for the fiscal year running July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. This resulted in a review of over 1,600 income and expense accounts.

Once the budget was approved at the senior staff level, it was submitted to the Finance Committee for discussion and approval. Following their approval on May 22, the budget was sent to the Deacon body for their consideration. After the Deacons approve the budget, members of the church are invited to vote on the budget at the monthly Church Conference to be held on Wed, June 5, at 7:30p in the Oasis Room at The Loop Campus.

Visit HoustonFirst.org and search "Financial Reports" for monthly updates as well as details behind each of the Great Commission Fund categories listed below.

GROW	\$6,035,000
GATHERING	\$5,880,000
MISSIONS	\$5,112,000*
CAMPUSES	\$6,747,000
OPERATIONS	\$6,024,000
ADMINISTRATION	\$2,126,000
CAPITAL RESERVE	\$750,000



TOTAL GREAT COMMISSION FUND – \$32,674,000

MISSIONS*

This is the operating budget given to Missions. In addition to these funds, Missions also receives, on average, more than \$5 million annually in designated giving from contributors (an amount not included in the operating budget numbers shown here). The Missions-designated funds support missional causes throughout our city, nation and world.

SHARE YOUR GENEROSITY WITH HOUSTON'S FIRST

- 1) ONSITE**
Collection plates and boxes
- 2) ONLINE**
Visit "Giving" page at HoustonFirst.org
- 3) ON MOBILE**
Use Houston's First Baptist Church app (Text HFBCAPP to 41411 for links to download)



Enhancing Trust

Houston's First is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an accrediting organization that is dedicated to helping Christian ministries and churches uphold high standards of responsible stewardship. For more information, visit ECFA.church.

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–MAY 19, 2019

DECISIONS

705 New Church Members
110 Joined by Baptism



16% of New Members were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

228,932 in Life Bible Studies
(5,203 weekly average)
241,367 in Worship Services
(5,135 weekly average)
44,568 on Webcast
(948 weekly average)

MISSIONS

30 Mission Trips with
2,295 Team Members



GENEROSITY

5,224 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
822 First-Time Givers



15% of Givers gave for the first time

may moments



Summit Young Singles get away for their annual Spring Retreat



Incoming 1st graders at The Loop receive Bibles from Pastor Gregg



Sienna Campus delivers treats to Parks Elementary School staff



Single mothers enjoy a Mother's Day Luncheon at The Loop Campus



Girls from The HUB Student Ministry at Cypress gather at Hunt Retreat



Over 500 people enjoy fajitas after The 5 on Cinco de Mayo at The Loop Campus

what's happening at houston's first?

men: SERVE



Serving the
WIDOWS OF OUR CHURCH

Sat, June 22 @ 8a-1p

Men from The Loop and Cypress will gather at their campuses then go out in teams to serve the widows of our church through yard work, home repairs, car maintenance, and more. Sign up to serve by Fri, June 14, at HoustonsFirst.org.

**BAND OF
BROTHERS**
MEN'S MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

IN THE

WILD

JUNE 24-27
@ 9A-12:30P

VBS at Houston's First takes place at The Loop and Cypress Campuses, offering kids a wild adventure! They'll go from bewildered to believing as they get into God's Word and "In The Wild" at VBS! Register your child for FREE at HoustonsFirst.org.

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 (June 5-26). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, June 10 @ 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. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entrée. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Mondays, June 10-July 15 @ 6:45-7:45p
The Loop Campus (Harbor Rm)

Designed for women age 16+, this six-week self defense class focuses on situational awareness, throwing punches and kicks, breaking holds, fleeing and falling, and weapon breaks. The class is \$50. (The same class is offered again from July 22-Aug 26.)

Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MOM CONFERENCE

Sat, June 15 @ 8a-2p

The Loop Campus (Chapel)

The Life of a Single Mom (a national ministry) exists to see that no single mom walks alone. Don't miss this time filled with national speakers, worship, food, and fun! Breakout sessions include The Truth about Happiness, What it Takes to Parent Well, and much more. The cost is \$29 per person, and \$5 per child for birth-8th grade. Register for both at HoustonsFirst.org. Scholarships are available by emailing SPF@HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

IMPACT: DAVE & BUSTER'S

Sat, June 29 @ Noon-4p — Dave & Buster's

Singles in their late 30s, 40s, and 50s are getting together to connect, play, and eat! Registration includes food and drinks, bowling, and a \$20 Power Card. Sign up for \$25 by June 23, \$35 after June 23, or \$40 at the door. Have a first-time guest you want to bring? You can register them for just \$20. Dave & Buster's is located in the Marq*E Entertainment Center (7620 Katy Fwy) across from The Loop Campus. Space is limited, so register soon at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDIES

Three opportunities for women are offered this summer at The Loop Campus. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details about each:

BE STILL AND KNOW

Mondays, June 3-17 @ 6:30-8p — Garden Rm

A HEART AFTER GOD

Thursdays, June 6-20 @ 10a-Noon — Fellowship Ctr

GOD'S GOT A WORD FOR YOU

June 24-27 @ 9:30-11:30a — Garden Rm

(kids can attend VBS while you attend this study)

CONTACT: Heather.Henson@HoustonsFirst.org

FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Sun, June 16 @ 12:15-3p — Dave & Buster's

Hey single dads—spend an afternoon at Dave & Buster's with your family having lunch and playing hard! Your kids will love making a card and wrapping a gift while you hear testimonies from other single dads. Dave & Buster's is located in the Marq*E Entertainment Center (7620 Katy Fwy) across from The Loop Campus. Register for this free event at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

BONHOEFFER, BURGERS, AND BROS

Mondays, June 3-July 1 @ 6:30-8:30p

Cypress Campus (Back Porch)

Cypress men! Come join Campus Pastor Jason Swiggart for some good burgers, fellowship, and discussion of Eric Metaxas' book and New York Times best seller, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. It's only \$5 per week for dinner, plus the purchase of your book on Amazon or any retailer. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Deborah.Whaley@HoustonsFirst.org

CALLED: WOMEN'S SUMMER SERIES

Tuesdays, June 4-18 @ 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. Childcare available during morning session only with registration.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY:

EPHESIANS (PART 1)

Wednesdays, June 5-26 @ 7-8:30p

Downtown Campus

Paul's epistle to the Ephesians bursts with declarations of God's love for His people. This love, epitomized in the Gospel of Jesus, takes center stage as not only a theological foundation, but as the driving force behind the way God's people live their lives. Women are invited to come dig in to the first three chapters of Ephesians. We'll focus on an inductive way of studying the Bible and will work in groups to observe, interpret, and apply God's Word together. Light dinner and childcare for children under age 5 are provided. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Erin.Krafft@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE SUMMER KICK OFF EVENT

Wed, June 12 @ 7-9p — Speedy's Fast Track

Summer is here and we are kicking off the summer at Speedy's Fast Track! We'll have an amazing time together with go-karts, mini-golf, laser tag, arcade games, and so much more! Dinner is provided, so make plans to come and bring a friend for this fun-filled summer night! Speedy's is located at 11440 Hempstead Rd.

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH ORIENTATION

Sun, June 30 @ 10:45a

The Loop Campus (Chapel)

Learn what it means to be a member at Houston's First! In this orientation, we will share the mission and vision of our church. Lunch will be provided. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your Spanish speaking friends and family.

Register at HoustonsFirst.org!

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

DAY OF PENTECOST

Sun, June 9 — Sienna Campus

We're celebrating the diversity of our church, and we want you to be involved! On June 9, as we end our Ethnos message series, we encourage everyone to wear clothing from their native lands. We'll experience food from around the world, testimonies, and scripture reading in different languages. Gather with us as we represent the different cultures that call the Sienna Campus home!

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

IMPACT SINGLES MOVIE NIGHT

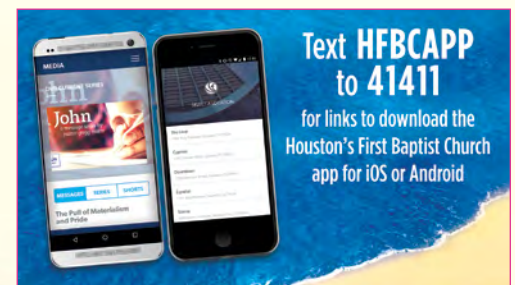
Fri, June 14 @ 6:30p

Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

All singles are invited to this free event to hang out with others and watch *The Case for Christ*—the true story of how atheist and investigative journalist Lee Strobel set out to disprove his wife's Christian faith but came to find faith in Christ himself. Please bring a food item to share!

CONTACT: Cat Bouch, cathy.bouch@yahoo.com

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!

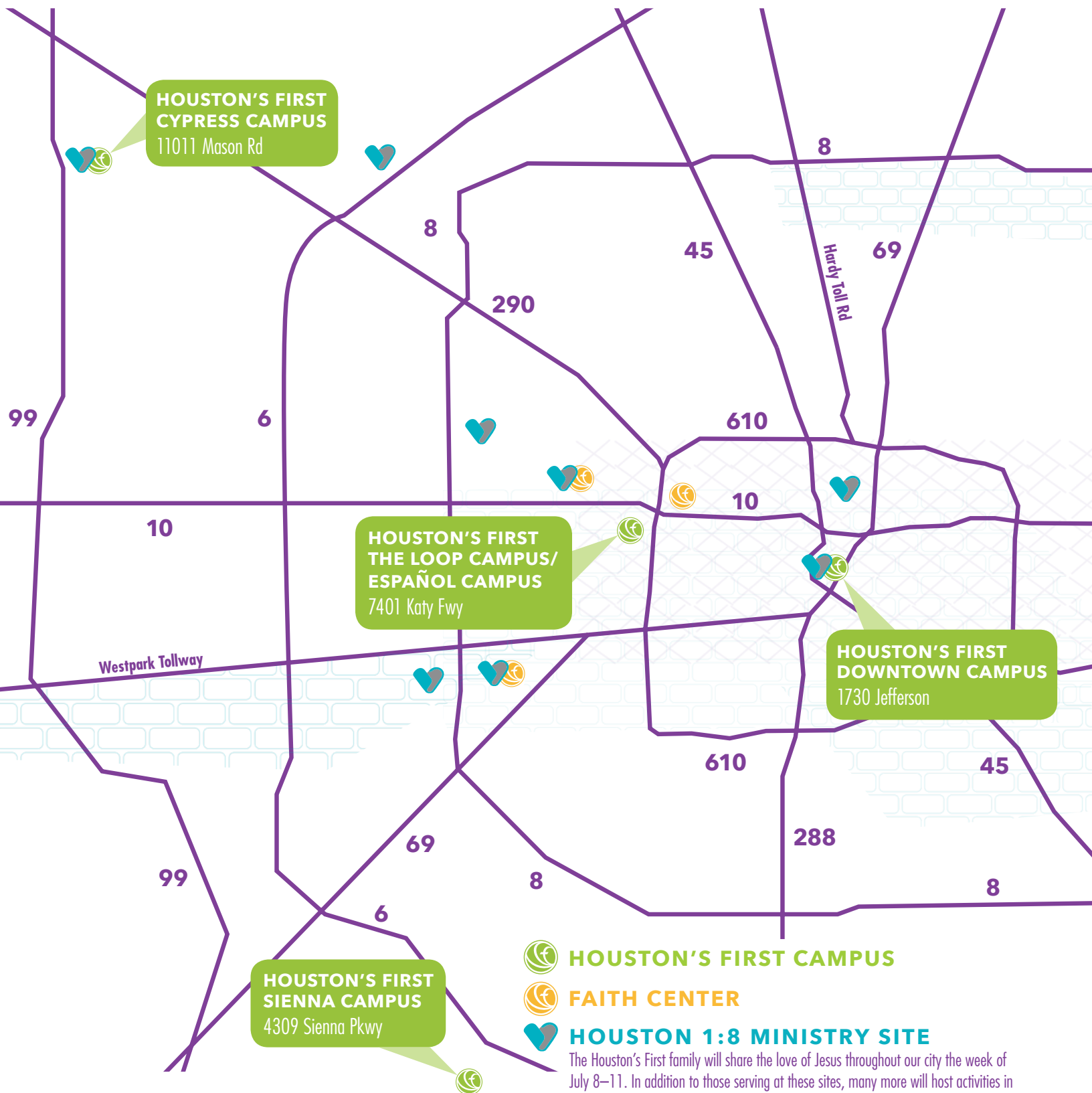


Text HFBCAPP
to 41411

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

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