

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

RUNNING THE RACE

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Teaching Title: Christian Fellowship

Key Scripture: Hebrews 10:19–25

CEDAR VALLEY

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Hebrews 10

Tuesday: Acts 2

Wednesday: Acts 4

Thursday: Prov. 27:17; Ecc. 4:9–10; Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:11

Friday: 1 John 1

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

MEMORY TOPIC:

Fellowship

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 10:25 NLT

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Introduction:

In our culture today, we have more “stuff” than ever before, but many people are lonelier and more discouraged than ever. What's missing? Why are we so unhappy? The only way we're going to persevere in the faith through difficulties is with each other. We were created for community! As much as we'd like to handle things on our own, we need fellowship with other Christians so we can be encouraged in our faith. Just as the writer of Hebrews urged believers to “hold tightly” to their faith, we too are called to encourage one another intentionally, motivating each other toward love and good works. That happens by showing up—both in corporate worship and in smaller, life-giving groups—because faith fades in isolation but burns bright in community. In a world full of stuff, what we really need is more us.

Questions:

Ice Breaker: What activity or hobby do you enjoy more with others than by yourself?

Read Hebrews 10:19–25 together as a group. The author has just reminded the readers of all that has been accomplished for us in Christ. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we now have access to the presence of God! The author then encourages us to fully benefit from this gift by doing four things (the “Let us” statements): 1. Confidently approach God in worship, 2. Hold tightly to the hope we affirm, 3. Think of ways to motivate one another and, 4. Meet together regularly for encouragement (See Notes).

1. How are the four things listed above related to one another? For example, how does “holding tightly to the faith” closely connect to meeting together?

2. Which of the "let us" statements do you most need to apply in your life right now? What specific action can you take?
3. The author says, "let us consider how to spur one another on." What does it look like to actively think about encouraging others?
4. Why is it important for believers to "not give up meeting together" (v. 25)? What does the author suggest as the primary reason? (See Digging Deeper)
5. How would you describe what happens when we gather together that can't happen when we're alone?
6. Read Acts 2:42–46. What are the key aspects of this depiction of community? What does it mean for believers to "have all things in common," and how does this affect how they live and care for one another?
7. How can our small group live all of this out more faithfully?

NOTES

The "Big Idea" of Hebrews—

- The central theme of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ is superior to all things. This Jewish writer is addressing a Jewish-Christian audience, emphasizing that Jesus is superior. Specifically, Jesus offers a superior covenant...yes, superior to the Old Testament Mosaic covenant. Jesus is a superior sacrifice, greater than any sacrifice offered under the Old Testament covenant. He is also a superior high priest—greater than any high priest the Jews had ever had in the past.
- The bottom line, this author is proclaiming that Jesus, who came and died for them, is absolutely the Messiah, and is far superior to anything they had ever known or experienced before.

DIGGING DEEPER

Question #4—

"The author explains the context for stipulation toward love and good works in verse 25, using contrasting expressions that mark out what the hearers must not and must do. What they must not do is stop meeting together on a regular basis. The participle *enkataleipontes* carries the idea of "abandonment" or "forsaking" someone or something. This is the word that translates Jesus' cry of dereliction from the cross (Matt. 27:46): "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Apparently, some in the community were abandoning their gathering together for worship. God would never forsake them (Heb. 13:5), but some of those who had been associated with the Christian community were forsaking Him and His people. They may have been discouraged from Christian gatherings by the threat of persecution, by the delay of the [second coming] by continued connections with the Jewish synagogue, or by mere apathy.

Whatever the reason, the author sees their discontinuance of common fellowship as fatal for perseverance in the faith. Encouragement cannot take place in isolation... both consolation and encouragement to spiritual alertness are to be given in light of the great "day" of Christ's coming. Believers must remind one another that we live from day to day in anticipation of that day at the end of the age."

—George H. Guthrie. *The NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998. p.345–6