

Closing the Spiritual Gap

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 February 13, 2022
“Circle Up”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for our group and what it means to our faith development. Father, would you continue to show us how to encourage, support, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NIV)

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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INTRODUCTION

We all believe exercise is good for us, but we don't always head to the gym or go on a run. But to get in shape we have to exercise. We have to get off the couch and do it. And, isn't it easier when we have someone to keep us accountable? The same is true of our faith; we can only get so far on our own. Simply believing in what God says isn't enough; doing is what makes all the difference. In community, we have the opportunity to encourage, support, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Do not give up meeting together!

QUESTIONS

1. Talk about something you've accomplished as part of a group or team. Why couldn't you have achieved that result on your own?
2. Your relationship with God isn't just about your vertical relationship with him; it's also about your horizontal relationships with other people. Have you ever grown in your faith because of your relationship with someone else?
3. Have you given anyone permission to help you practically live out your faith by asking you tough questions, inspiring you to be courageous, and then following up? Do you also help others put their belief into action? How?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19–25 on page 1. Is there anything in your life you're trying to do (or get through) on your own right now? How can this group spur you on or encourage you?
5. Faith comes alive in community. Take some time to celebrate the ways this group has spurred one another on already. If you need a place to start, use The One Another List:
 - **Forgive** one another.
 - **Accept** one another.
 - **Care** for one another.
 - **Encourage** one another.
 - **Submit** to one another.
 - **Restore** one another.
 - **Carry** one another's burdens.
 - **Bear** with one another.
6. When we isolate ourselves from each other, we inevitably isolate ourselves from God. What are some practical ways you can continue to spur one another on and encourage each other to grow in your faith?

FINAL APPLICATION

Read Hebrews 10:19–25 and thank God for all that he is doing in your group. Also take time to pray for the people who will be joining groups of their own in the coming weeks.