

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of June 12, 2016

Hebrews 10:19-25

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. <sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup> Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> 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.

**Connection Questions:**

1. Amy Ellis Nutt, a reporter for the Washington Post, says loneliness is a public health hazard. Do you agree with her statement? If so, how could the church address this issue to have a positive impact?
2. How important is a community of faith to a person's faith development?
3. What are some of the barriers to the development of a community of faith?
4. The church has transitioned from being the center of community activities. Do you agree with this statement and if so, what obstacles does it create for the church in moving forward?
5. The writer of Hebrews encourages the early church not to neglect meeting together. Discuss what you think the writer's intent was in his statement. How can the church be responsive to his plea today?

6. Our text in Hebrews was written when the church was struggling to stay alive. How important is having a community of faith in times of hardships and why?
  
7. Our church is involved in a capital campaign to improve our facilities. How important is it that a church has adequate facilities in helping people grow in their faith or does it? Are adequate worship space, meeting areas, and classrooms important in faith development?
  
8. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he says the capital campaign is about people's lives. In relationship to our text, discuss what you think he meant.
  
9. In Acts, Luke says the church grew day by day as people worshiped together in the temple, ate meals together, and gave to anyone in need. How would you compare the church during its infancy to today's current church? Secondly, compare the growth of the early church to the growth of today's church. How can the church continue to grow?
  
10. This sermon series has been focused on the theme "I Love My Church." Do you love the church? Share why and what it means to you personally.