

FIRST

FIRST THINGS

January 22, 2017
Compelling Community | Hebrews 10:24-25

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

1. Do you think it's easy to create meaningful community (deep relationships with others about the things that matter most) in America today? Why or why not?
2. "The most compelling community should be found in the church, among believers." Do you agree with that statement? Explain your answer.
3. The sermon from Sunday is part of a series called "First Things First." Do you agree that this topic of community is a "first things first" priority? Why?
4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What do you see in this passage that underlines the priority of community in our lives?
5. Hebrews 10:24-25 also shows us what the practice of compelling community includes: love, good deeds, and encouragement. Spend some time on each of these, discussing HOW these can be displayed in very practical ways in a healthy community:
 - Stand out in love
 - Overflow with good deeds
 - Actively and repeatedly encourage
6. Choose at least one of these practices (love, good deeds, or encouragement) and apply it to your life very specifically. What is one thing you can do in the next 7 days to practice this piece of biblical community?
7. Read what follows, then answer the questions underneath: A pair of words that occurs more than once in Hebrews 10:24-25 is "one another." (There are a total of 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament.) This phrase teaches us that healthy community is something we help create (by showing these "one anothers") and something we're offered (when we receive these "one anothers"). In a very real sense, community is "one anothering."
 - Why are both of these important – both showing and receiving the "one anothers"?
 - Is it more difficult for you to SHOW community or RECEIVE community? Explain.
8. Based on what you've seen in Hebrews 10:24-25, imagine you had to convince someone of all that biblical community offers. What would you say? Why is true community important?
9. Challenge: Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25: 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not 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.