

THIS IS US

THIS IS US, PART 2: LIFE IS BETTER CONNECTED

Small groups are where people come together on a regular basis and “do life” together. This allows us to genuinely connect with others while being encouraged and challenged in our relationship with God. Being involved in a small group is the simplest way to impact and influence people directly for Christ.

BIG IDEA: People grow further faster when they're connected.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the most common reason that people isolate themselves from church: (1) fear of being judged; (2) pain or loss that hasn't been dealt with; (3) spiritual laziness; (4) other?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Hebrews 10:22-25.*

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:22-25 (NIV)

3. Why should we “draw near to God with a sincere heart”? Is emotion enough to sustain devotion, or is there another piece?
4. What is the key to not swerving in your Christian life? Would you say that you currently “hold unswervingly” to the hope you profess? Why or Why not?
5. Note the four *let us* statements in verses 22-25. What does each one mean? What incentives are given?

GOING DEEPER

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Peter 5:8-9.*

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

2. How does the Bible describe our enemy Satan? What are some of the things Satan uses to keep us afraid (hint: What is the animal doing?) When do lions roar—before or after the kill?
3. How can we keep ourselves from being lion food?
4. Looking back, are there people you feel God providentially brought into your life at crucial times? Who? How did God use them? (If this is a couples' group, ask if anyone has seen God providentially bring someone into one of their children's lives.)
5. Looking back, is there a time when you feel God brought someone across your path that could have helped you, but you resisted the relationship?



6. Are there those in your circle of relationships that would say YOU are someone God providentially dropped into their lives?

Have two or three people read the following from two or three different translations: Proverbs 13:20.

7. What is the promise to those who “walk” with the wise?
8. What is the consequence of being a companion of fools?
9. Based on your experiences, why do you think Solomon highlights what a person *becomes* (i.e., “wise”) in the first half of the verse, while he highlights what will *happen* (i.e., “suffering harm”) in the second half?
10. Why didn’t he say, “He who walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools becomes a fool”?

“Your friends will determine the direction and quality of your life.”

11. Was that true for you when you were in school?
12. Is it still true or *as true* for you now that you are in a different stage of life?

THINK ABOUT IT

We have all gone through difficult times where someone walked beside us, offering support and encouragement along the way. Even in the New Testament early church, it was not about attendance, it was about a community of believers investing in each other’s lives and studying God’s word. Community is where life change happens. This is where God leads us to “spur each other on to pursue love and good deeds.”

MOVING FORWARD

What is our role in warning our friends about the dangers they face? Why is it important that we are in a small group where we can spur each other?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:23-24

