



OPENING QUESTIONS

If you were to be stranded on an island (a warm island!) for the rest of your life, what 3 people from your circle of relationships would you most want to be stranded with? Why? What is it that they bring to your life that you'd want to spend the rest of your life with them?

BIG IDEA

Salvation is a group experience; we need each other to live as Jesus' disciples.

SOME CONTEXT

The Bible never divorces what we believe from what we do – doctrine and deeds always walk together in the life Jesus has planned for us. And that's important for us because what we believe impacts how we behave as disciples. In the New Testament, for example, Paul spends the first half of his letter to the Ephesians laying out some amazing theological truths before spending the last half of his letter applying it to the Ephesians' lives. Paul does the same thing in his letter to the Romans, spending the first 11 chapters before diving into a very practical instruction in chapter 12. It is vitally important for us to understand who God is, who we are and what God has done for us in Jesus Christ as the foundation of how we live as Jesus' disciples. The letter to the Hebrews follows this method of writing as well. After spending Hebrews 1:1 to 10:18 showing us that Christ is superior in every aspect of our faith, the author begins at 10:19 to show us what our new position in Christ means in everyday life. He shows us what it means that we have been saved by Jesus' death and we are thus His disciples. Today's study is designed to help us discover more fully what it means that Jesus has saved us.

READ TOGETHER

Ask each group member to read **Hebrews 10:19-25** from their Bibles on their own before diving into the discussion questions together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Hebrews 10:19-22 slowly as a group again. Ask the reader to emphasize each time the words **"we," "us"** and **"our"** are used. These 4 verses revisit the same theme a number of times, restating it in a variety of ways. What do you think that theme is?
- 2) What is the privilege that we, as those saved by Jesus, are given as a result of our salvation?
- 3) Over coffee one day, a brand-new follower of Jesus tells you, "I feel so unworthy to draw near to the holy God." What would you tell them?
- 4) What does it mean to you that this passage - and thus the theme the author is emphasizing - is written to a group of people as demonstrated by the use of **we, us** and **our**?
- 5) The big idea of our 180 series message this past weekend was that **salvation is a group experience; we need each other to live as Jesus' disciples**. This passage concludes with three specific **"together"** practices in verses 23-25 which are ways we're designed and called to do in community together as Jesus' disciples. Read verse 23. How would you label this practice? Where do we discover our hope and what God promises? What is this saying about our life together?

- 6) Read verse 24. How would you label this practice? The word “**motivate**” used in some translations is best translated as “**to provoke or irritate or incite.**” It’s the same word used for what a cattle prod accomplishes. What is this telling us about how our relationships should function? What do other believers do that most motivates or provokes or irritates you to live closer to Jesus as His disciple? Can anyone think of an example?
- 7) Finally read verse 25. How would you label this “together” practice? What specific applications come to mind as you think about your life, RockPointe as a spiritual community and the Church in Canada as a whole? How does this command speak to your life?
- 8) Take some time to think through this passage – Hebrews 10:19-25 – as a whole. How do the words and commands you’ve just studied together apply to your life as a community? What affirmation do these verses give you as to how you function as a community? What needs to change in how you live life together under Christ? (this is a time for some great honesty if it is needed) Make a plan to change what you sense needs to change and to reinforce how you’re functioning well.

CHALLENGE

One final question. Which of these three “**together**” practices do you individually need most to apply to your life right now? Take 3 or 4 minutes of quiet time to jot down specific ways that you can grow in this area. Then share with the group what you have written down and one specific way in which you are committing to putting this into practice over the next week..

PRAYER

Take time to pray for the person on your left in regard to what they shared today and what they committed to putting into practice this week.

NEXT STEPS

As a spiritual community, we’re spending the next 180 days specifically focusing on what it means to live like Jesus, 180-degrees counter to the culture around us. We want to hear God’s voice, obey it and lead others to do the same. Biographies and autobiographies are tremendous ways to learn more about how to do this; it allows us to see others in action. If you want to pursue this critical theme of discipleship, a wonderfully motivating biography is the story of Jim Elliot found in the record of life entitled **Shadow of the Almighty**. It describes one person’s long obedience in the same direction in following Jesus from his childhood to his dying breath. A very worthy read. Available on Amazon.ca for about \$15.