

Growing Deeper
PB&J Creating Connections

Week One: Created for Connection
Hebrews 10:19-25

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. When was the first time you left home for an extended time? Was it harder on you or on your immediate family? Why?
2. Why do you think God caused the human race to require the nurture of a family for such a long time? (Many, if not most, animals are born nearly independent of their mother or require a much shorter time of family care and protection.)
3. What's the upside of being raised in a family unit? What's the potential downside?
4. Once, when Jesus' family came to care for Him, He responded with the words in Matthew 12:47-49. What do you think Jesus meant?
5. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2. How does this apply to your understanding of Christian friends?
6. When Jesus taught His disciples (and us, too), how to pray in the Lord's prayer, how did He urge us to address God? Why choose such an intimate term as father? (Most religions would not allow their followers to address God using such a tender term.)
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, pray a prayer of gratitude for your family of origin or for those that cared and nurtured you as a child.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What are the main themes of this section of Scripture?
9. What enables us to connect in confidence with our Heavenly Father?
10. What does this passage suggest is the main reason we should connect with other Christians on a consistent basis?
11. Some argue they don't need to be regular or faithful in worship or Christian fellowship. They can just as easily study their Bibles on their own or worship via live stream without ever setting foot in a church. Are they right? What might they be missing?

12. Is gathering together with other Christians urged mostly for our benefit or the benefit of others? Explain.
13. Describe loneliness. Have you ever suffered a long period of isolation or loneliness? Why is finding time to be alone a good thing, but loneliness is not? What's the difference?
14. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for all lonely people who don't feel the love and support of others in their lives.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Hebrews 10:23 urges us to “hold unswervingly to hope we profess.” What is the hope we profess? See Hebrews 6:19-20 for insight.
16. Is this hope only the assurance of eternal life after death to those who believe or is it more than that? Explain.
17. How does hope in God change your attitude about today, tomorrow and eternity?
18. On what is your hope based? What concrete reason(s) do you have to trust in God to provide all you need in life and in death?
19. Read Ecclesiastes 4:8-12. What benefits are suggested for those who have important connections to other people in life?
20. People to people connections are important for believers and nonbelievers. Why would a connection to people of faith be an even greater advantage?
21. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying for the ability to be the kind of friend to others that you would like to have for yourself.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. Read Hebrews 10:23 again. What makes the faithfulness of God so important?
23. Read Hebrews 10:24. How can we persuade others to greater love and good deeds? Suggest at least three ways you might achieve that noble calling.

24. It has been said that “well done is better than well said.” What does that mean? Do you agree?
25. In Texas, they say a phony person is “all hat and no cattle.” Describe a phony friend.
26. If you have fallen short of true friendship, what could you do to turn the page and be the kind of friend who makes a difference in the life of another person. Suggest three ways you could regain a former friend’s trust.
27. Read Romans 12: 9-21. What piece of advice offered by God in those verses seems most important to you at this point in your life? Why?
28. Read the lyrics to the first verse of the old hymn; “What a Friend We have in Jesus.”
- What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!”
- What point is the author making about true friendship?
29. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Offer a prayer of thanks for the faithful friendship of Jesus in your life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

30. Read Hebrews 10:25. What reason(s) do people give for not gathering together with other Christians?
31. A growing number of younger Christians claim they still believe in Jesus but don’t believe in the organized religion. Do you think they have good reasons for rejecting organized religion or is this just an excuse or a sign of spiritual immaturity?
32. What ultimate reason does the author of this verse give for connecting with other Christians?
33. How can you give and receive Christian support if you refuse to associate with other people of faith?
34. Other than person renewal and affirmation of other Christians, what other important reasons do Christians have for working together?

35. What could your congregation do to encourage Christians to be more sensitive to each other and thus fulfill the law of Christ? See Galatians 6:1-3 for additional insight.

36. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer by praying for eyes to see the hidden needs and insecurities of others within your sphere of influence.