GROUP GUIDE

Highlands Fellowship

Better Together: Circles

Hebrews 3:12-13

3/8/2020

**Main Point**

Jesus has called us to a life in community with other people.

**Introduction**

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Share a high point and a low point of the past week.

Is there a friend who helped you in the midst of this week’s low point? One that you called to celebrate the high point? Were these the same person? Explain.

What do you consider the goal or purpose of a circle of friendship to be?

The goal of encouragement is to inspire another person with courage, spirit, or confidence. Encouragement is something that every believer should make a part of his or her relationships. It is one of the primary ways we urge the people in our lives to pursue Christ and grow in their relationship with Him.

**Understanding**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Ask a volunteer read Hebrews 3:12-13.

Do you currently have an accountability partner or group? How often do you talk?

How do friends like this help you in your spiritual walk?

According to Hebrews 3:12-13, what additional benefit does encouragement have in a person’s spiritual life?

Is there anyone you know who once was following Jesus but then fell away? Do you ever think, “That could never happen to me?” How does verse 12 challenge this view?

What are some practical ways we can speak into other people’s lives?

The author of Hebrews urged believers to encourage one another. Christians grow better as a part of a fellowship. If they live separately, they may retreat into half-heartedness and compromise, failing to realize their own lostness. Sin deceives us by exaggerating the benefits of disobedience and hiding its consequences. Christians need the encouragement of other Christians to keep them diligent in their faith and to keep them from believing the lies Satan throws our way.

Why is it important that we be sources of spiritual encouragement and guidance for one another?

What can happen in our relationships when we aren’t committed to the spiritual well-being of others?

**Application**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What areas of your life could improve if you were better connected with other people?

What steps can you take to connect with people in a meaningful way?

Why do you think we struggle in maintaining deeper levels of friendships? Why is it hard to create lasting relationships?

**Prayer**

Lord, we come to you today asking you to give us boldness in encouraging others. That our relationships with others deepen and that we will be able to them to you. We pray for a renewed valuing of the gathered community at our church.