



Check Your Circle | Doug Wekenman | 2.9.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could magically become fluent in any language, what would it be and why?

SHARE

Welcome to Week Two of Take-Home Faith. This year we are getting serious about equipping the church with the necessary tools to follow Jesus throughout the week. Christianity is not about creating churchgoers; it's about building Jesus followers. The calling of Jesus is to follow him in every part and every hour of your life!

This week, Doug continued our series by talking about the importance of community. This week was a great reminder of how important it is to be in a Group, so before we look at what the Bible has to say about relationships take some time to check in with your community by answering these questions:

What was the best part of your week? Why?

What was the most challenging part of your week? Why?

What is one thing in your life that you are excited about or looking forward to?

GROW

Read Genesis 1:26-31

What do you know about Genesis 1? Where is this passage taking place in the story?

What stuck out to you about this passage?

The first chapter of Scripture tells a story of the Creator creating Creation. Verse 26 says, “let us make mankind in our image,” which is interesting because although God is talking to Himself, He doesn’t say, “let me make mankind in my image.”

Most scholars believe this is a reference to the Trinity. God is one essence, but three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This is a complicated concept to grasp, but there is a really practical takeaway; God is communal! Which means we are created in the image of a communal God!

In other words, we were created to be in relationships!

- *When we are confused about what step to take next, we go to our community for wisdom.*
- *When we go through a difficult season, we lean on community for comfort.*
- *When we are heading down an unhealthy path, we count on community to point out our blind spots.*
- *When we are ready to make changes in our life, we need community to keep us accountable.*

On and on we can go, the Christian walk was never meant to be taken on our own. We need each other! That’s why meeting with your Group is so important. As Doug reminded us this weekend, “you can go faster by yourself, but we can go further together.”

Before we go any further, take some time to set some goals with your Group for the rest of the Semester.

What are you hoping to accomplish this semester in Group?

What is the best way this Group can help you follow Jesus?

Do you have any fears or insecurities about being in this Group?

MOVE

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

What verse stuck out to you the most in this passage? Why?

What do you see in this passage that can be useful in your take-home faith?

The passage in Hebrews you just read is so dense; we could do an entire series on it. The blood of Jesus is our confidence (Hebrews 10:19). We have a great priest over the house of God (Hebrews 10:21). The Father invites us to draw near to (Hebrews 10:22). All of these things are amazing and foundational for our faith. However, for the purposes of this series, let's focus on the three action steps, the writer of Hebrews gives us at the very end.

Since all of the things mentioned above are true, the writer of Hebrews gives us three practical things we should do in response:

1. **Spur one another on toward good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).** One of the reasons community is so important is because it is the way we can urge one another to keep going. Like a good workout partner, we are created to spur one another on to good deeds!
2. **Do not give up meeting together (Hebrews 10:25).**
We don't just do Groups because we think it is a good idea, we do Groups because Scripture says it's a good idea. The writer of Hebrews is reminding us how important it is to come together and meet. Being in a Group is an essential part of 167.
3. **Encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).**
We are called to "spur" and "encourage." So, what's the difference? We spur each other to keep each other moving forward, but then we encourage one another as we go. Every good coach knows there are times to inspire and times to encourage. The Writer of Hebrews tells us to do both.

Which of these three action steps are you best at? Why do you think it comes so naturally to you?

Which of these three action steps do you struggle with the most? Why do you think that is? What is one practical thing you can do this week to get better?

Take-Home Assignment #2: Mentor/Mentee

Here's a great rule of thumb for community: Always have at least one person who is mentoring you and one person you are mentoring.

The challenge this week is to identify your mentor and your mentee.

Mentor

Who is one person in your life that is mentoring you? Reach out to them this week, thank them for everything they do for you, and put your next meeting with them on the calendar.

Mentee

Who is one person in your life that you can mentor? If you feel unqualified to do that, join the club. That's how everyone feels. **YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER SOMEONE!** This is where you find someone you can invest in and then reach out to them this week and see if they want to meet up.

Next week you'll have a chance to check-in with your group and tell them how it went!

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for the things you wrote down above! If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18