

Groups Sunday

Hebrews 3:6-16

Grace Fellowship Church / Stephen Petrie / September 8, 2024

5 Ways to Be A Faithful Community Group Member

Way #1: Take Responsibility And Be Serving

Hebrews 3:12 “**Take care**, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.”

Hebrews 2:1 “Therefore we must **pay much closer attention** to what we have heard, lest **we drift away** from it.”

Human beings never drift towards godliness.

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another**.”

One of the number one ways to take care and keep your heart from drifting and going cold **is to serve!**

The opposite of a heart that is falling away from God is a heart that is drawing nearer and nearer to God and you are never more like Christ than when you are giving your life away.

Way #2: Let People In

Hebrews 3:13 “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be **hardened by the deceitfulness of sin**.”

All of sin in its very essence starts with the belief in a lie.

The Israelites looked at their circumstances and no matter how many times they had seen God act before they still felt as if whatever was right in front of them was different and their hearts were hardened.

Your community group is God’s gift to you to help you fight against your own deceitful heart by the power of the Spirit living within other believers.

But people will only be able to do this if you **let them in!**

Way #3: Put Courage In Others

Hebrews 3:13 “**But exhort one another** every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Proverbs 18:21 “Death and **life** are in the power of the tongue...”

Our groups are called “community groups” for the purpose of emphasizing that your group is meant to be all hands-on-deck community and not just where a group of people come to learn from a singular leader.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore **encourage one another** and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to **stir up one another** to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another...”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing** one another in all wisdom...”

Way #4: Show Up Consistently

Hebrews 3:13 “But exhort one another **every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’** that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

We need to be exhorted daily by others and others need to be exhorted by us.

Daily exhortation is necessary because our flesh and our enemy are seeking to deceive us daily.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”

Way #5: Encourage Your Leaders

Hebrews 13:7 “**Remember your leaders**, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

One of the best ways to remember your leaders and keep them in mind is by regularly and specifically thanking and encouraging them.

2 Reasons This Talk About Community May Feel Foreign To You

1. You Have Been Living As An Isolated Believer.

Join a Group.

2. You Are Living Life Isolated And Alienated From God.

Come to Christ.

Hebrews 4:1-3, 6-7 “Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest... ⁶Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again He appoints a certain day, ‘Today,’ saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, ‘Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.’”