

## **The Practice of Community, Practicing the Way**

### **May 30 Reflection Questions**

#### **Share Your Joys and Sorrows-- Session 2**

1. Share 1 joy, 1 sorrow/hard thing – allow time for EACH to share.
2. As you listened, what most stood out to you? See teaching notes.
3. Does the act of sharing joys, of celebrating---whether it is celebrating yourself or someone else---feel natural or unnatural to you? What is meaningful about it, for sharer, hearers?
4. What do you need in people attitudes, hearts, to feel comfortable sharing joys and sorrows with others? On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 represents complete transparency and 1 represents no transparency, how transparent are you in your current relationships? Why do you think that is?
5. Why is offering physical, relational, emotional hospitality community so important, transforming in our culture of loneliness, need for hope and purpose, and divisions?
6. Reflect on a positive and a negative experience you have had sharing your deeper self, questions, burdens in a relationship or group. What made the difference?

#### **Resource questions if/when you might play Be a Family Around the Table-- Session 1**

1. What is your primary feeling around living more deeply in community? Excitement? Hesitance? Fear?
2. Share about a time when you felt a strong sense of belonging in a particular group or community. What made that experience memorable for you?
3. What examples of radical individualism have you seen at play around you, or even in your own life?
4. What are the most common barriers you personally face to living more deeply in and with community?
5. What most stood out to you about the four circles of community?

## Regional Gathering Discussions

### Hebrews 10:19-25 (NET)

#### Drawing Near to God in Enduring Faith

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the fresh and living way that he inaugurated for us<sup>[b]</sup> through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest<sup>[d]</sup> over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings,<sup>[e]</sup> because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience<sup>[f]</sup> and our bodies washed in pure water. <sup>23</sup> And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. <sup>24</sup> And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works,<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>25</sup> not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day<sup>[h]</sup> drawing near.<sup>[i]</sup>

### Hebrews 10:19-25 (MSG)

#### Don't Throw It All Away

<sup>19-21</sup> So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body.

<sup>22-25</sup> So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

1. What is serving as a source of encouragement in your life, church, ministry right now?
2. Where/how are you struggling in your personal ministry right now? Or what challenges are you or your church/worshipping community facing in ministry right now?
3. How can we (your fellow colleagues in ministry in Yellowstone Presbytery) serve as a support or encouragement to you in this season? How can we more fully support and encourage one another?
4. What need(s) is your local community currently facing? Internally (within your congregation/ministry) or externally (in your town/city/etc.)
5. How is your congregation/ministry engaged in works of “love and good deeds”/service to your wider community? In light of the needs of the people, groups in your community, how might your congregation/ministry more fully engaged in works of love and good deeds/service? Partner with/other in town, in the presbytery?
6. How could you or your congregation/ministry benefit from some “holy provocation, holy spurring on”? How can we find ongoing ways to “provoke” or spur one another on?