

2017

BEST YEAR EVER

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

For three weeks, we have focused on what it would take to make this the Best Year Ever. This week, we'll talk about what it means to "live connected" and how finding community can radically impact our ability to know & follow Jesus.

Scripture:

Hebrews 10:21-25 — "And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Luke 5:18-20,25 — "Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, 'Young man, your sins are forgiven.'...And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God."

Discussion Questions:

1. Some of us have a tendency to make some pretty poor purchase decisions when left to our own devices. Have you ever purchased anything from an infomercial, TV spot, or simply based on gimmicky advertising?
2. In Hebrews 10, we read five "Let us" statements: Let us draw near to God...hold onto hope...spur each other on...keep meeting together...encourage each other. What is it about being a part of a group that makes it easier to hold onto hope?
3. In Luke 5, we see a fantastic picture of community: a group of men who carry their friend to Jesus, when he cannot make it on his own. Has there ever been a time when you have been on the receiving end of this type of community?
4. Following Jesus is difficult & our tendency to 'swerve' is huge. How can community help prevent that swerve?
5. One of the "Let us" statements in Hebrews 10 is "Let us encourage each other."
 - What is one way being in a group has encouraged you?
 - What do you need encouragement for this week?

Take the Next Step:

We are not perfect people. Each of us has a next step and that next step will be exceedingly easier if you don't have to do it alone: find a group at Cokesbury.tv/smallgroups. Already in a group? Lean in. Be honest. Let your group challenge you & encourage you.