

# Membership Covenant

The 5 G's  
Groups  
Giving  
Gifts  
Grace  
Growth

## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Hebrews 10:19-25

Message for the Week: Invitation to Community

Sunday, October 1

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What has your heart been lingering on this week?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Hebrews 10:19-25](#) out loud.

(Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

Why do people avoid community or being part of a small group community? List some reasons.

What are the consequences of not being part of a small group community?

What are the benefits of being part of a small group community?

What does it mean to spur someone on? What things/characteristics are needed for a person to spur on another person?

What is the difference between judgment and encouragement?

Does attending a worship gathering / worship service hold you spiritually accountable? Why or why not? Does attending a discipleship small group hold you spiritually accountable? Why or why not?

How would you describe the "new and living way" that is explained in verses 19-22? What does this "new and living way" mean for us?

## Try It:

When you feel the need to offer a judgement this week...stop...reflect...examine...ask...What would be the word of encouragement that could take its place?

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, place the call and the need for community so strongly in my heart that I can't help but seek community in my church family. Place that call so strongly in me and my church that we become, more and more, the biblical community to which we are called. AMEN

## Missional/Spiritual Practice: Groups

I commit to being an active participant in Covenant's faith community through corporate worship and ministry involvement. Are you an active participant in these?

I commit to being involved in a small group, prayer group, and/or a ministry group to encourage others in their spiritual life and to be held accountable for mine.

Are you involved in a ministry group? If not, which ministry group will you join?

## Hebrews 10:19-25

### New International Version

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### The Message

<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 worshiping together as some do, but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.