

The Encouraging Community

Warm Up

- What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?

Read

Hebrews 10:23-25

Discuss

1. As the author explains the true narrative he writes, "I want a community who reminds me of who I am and will watch over me with love - which means offering both comfort and warning - so that I might live a life worthy of my calling" (pp. 130-31). Do you desire such a community for yourself? What attracts you to this idea, and what reluctance do you feel toward this type of community?
2. Do you have an accountability friend or did you have one in the past? Describe your experience.
3. What resistance do you feel toward having an accountability friend?
4. In regard to the passage we read in Hebrews, what action steps can you take to spur someone on toward love and good deeds? How has someone spurred you on toward love and good deeds?
5. If possible, break off into groups of 2-3 people. Ask each person: "In what ways do you need encouraged right now?" Spend time together in prayer over these needs.

Apply

- What, if anything is holding you back from living more fully for God? Spend time in prayer this week asking God's help to break through this blockade.

Pray

- Prayerfully read Ephesians 3:14-21 and, if possible, pray this prayer over each person in your group by name.

All questions are taken from *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith, pages 220-222.
Refer to these pages for additional questions.

