

## Communities of Faith

Hebrews 10:19-25

1-11-15

1. Pastor Jim mentioned that there are huge benefits to running the race God has marked out for each of us together. What do you think are the potential dangers to running the race alone?
2. Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and Hebrews 12:22-23 aloud. What are we reenacting in heaven when we gather together in our worship services? How is this different than gathering with friends around a television?
3. Hebrews 10:25 mentions that some have made a habit of *not* meeting together. What prevents believers from attending church? Why do you think some people view church attendance as only being optional?
4. Pastor Jim said that there are three reasons why communities of faith are so important for journeys of faith. The first reason is that when we assemble together as a church it enables each of us to draw near to God; to be able to experience Him and hear his voice speaking to us. How have you experienced God recently in a church service? How has this encouraged you? Has God given confirmation or clarity about anything specific?
5. Do you know anyone who claims to be Christian who has made a habit of not going to church? How is their spiritual life? How strong is their faith? (Do not mention names during this discussion). Have you personally experienced this before? Do you think it's hard to continue believing unless you continue to experience God through church?
6. Read Hebrews 10:23 and Psalm 40:9-10 aloud. What is another benefit of gathering together for worship we see from these two texts? Have there been stories or testimonies of God's faithfulness you've heard recently that have encouraged you? How so?
7. The final benefit of gathering for worship is that the church is where we are spurred on to love and do good deeds. In your time of prayer, ask God how you can engage more with the church this New Year. Pray that God would use you to encourage and motivate others to participate in the life of the church. Take time to also praise God for his faithfulness and goodness at Calvary this last year!