

## Sept 15/24 Small Groups – Leader's Guide

### Read Hebrews 10:19-25

1. Orvin mentioned "rampant individualism" in his sermon. What is rampant individualism and how does it play out in our daily lives and in our faith community?

*Rampant individualism is a cultural expectation to go about life on our own and with our own. As it pertains to our faith, it habituates us to a private kind of Christianity where we tend to mind our own business and mind our own faith. It plays out as our keeping to ourselves and with just our own family, and we don't share much of our lives with others, or be interested in other people's lives. It is isolating, self-sufficient, withdrawing from community, and exacerbates loneliness and social anxiety.*

2. The writer of Hebrews portrays Christians as a community of priests who have access to the Father. In the Bible, what is the duty and privilege of the priesthood?

*The priesthood were the border guards of the portal between heaven and earth, the temple. They imported heavenly goods and blessings from God into earth while exporting the people's prayers and offerings to God. In the new royal priesthood in Jesus Christ, every follower of Jesus is a priest and forms a collective or commune of priests together. Christians together then do the same: importing and exporting in the world to the end that the earth will become a new creation, beginning with themselves as a person and together as a community of a new humanity.*

3. The writer of Hebrews describes the mandate of the new priesthood as "stirring up one another to love and good works". The word "stir up" is often used in the Bible as a negative word to mean "irritate" or "provoke someone to do something bad". What is the writer conveying here about the nature of our stirring up one another to love and good works?

*The writer is conveying that Christians should seem as aggressive or scheming to get other Christians to react and explode out with love and good works, to get zoe or the spiritual life in them to show up and show out, and not keep it to themselves. It means that Christians should be intentional and inventive in getting all of us to manifest our love and good works for one another and for the world.*

4. Our stirring up one another to love and good works is propelled by a grand vision of a cosmic future of new creation, "as we see the Day draw near". How does the future of new creation propel us in our small groups and as a church to grow together with others, for others?

*Christians are not just loving others and doing good works for their own sakes. There's a cosmic goal, a grand vision for the love and good works that we bring: to see the day of new creation and judgement come. Judgement is awful for those who do not repent of evil and injustice, but judgement is also good for God will also make everything that was wrong right. New creation is possible here and now, and is not just a future reality. New creation happens whenever we function as priests and create portals or spaces of God's temple that invade our everyday spaces and lives. Growing together with others, for others, means that we stir up one another to love and good works until the whole world becomes God's temple--a new creation.*