

Pray

Lord Jesus, you are the one who comes to us in gentleness and mercy. And yet you draw us to the places in life where your Spirit can mold and shape us into the people you want us to be. Help us to draw close to one another in thoughtfulness, *witness*, and peacefulness as we spur one another on to greater trust and faith in you. Amen.

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

Take note of which words and phrases stand out to you.

Understanding the Text

- 1) What does it mean to spur someone on? What examples did you draw from this weekend's message?
- 2) The NIV's use of the word "spur" captures the original language's sense of a visceral, sudden action designed to provoke an immediate response. Why do you think the writer of Hebrew's is calling for such drastic measures?
- 3) Verses 32-39 describe believers that have faced persecution and other kinds of distress. What role can the Christian community play in addressing these realities?

Living the Text

- 4) When have you needed someone to provoke you toward deeds of love and service? When has God used you to light a fire under someone?
- 5) All of the "one another" passages we've encountered are necessary instructions for the community to be able to carry out its mission of witness to the world.
 - o Looking back over the last few weeks, which of these "one another" passages has challenged you the most? How has it changed your day-to-day behavior?
 - o Take some time to listen to the joys and struggles of each of the members of your group this week. How can you "spur" one another on? How can you offer a word of encouragement?
 - o In what way might a community that spurs one another "toward love and good deeds" bear witness to God's love?