



# Groups

## Part 3

### Read It Up

Matthew 26:56–58, 69–75      James 5:16  
Hebrews 10:19–25          1 Peter 5:8

### Start It Up

What was the craziest thing you wore in the '80s? (Or another decade, if you were too young to choose your own look then!)

### Talk It Up

1. How does it make you feel to hear, "The first step away from God is a step away from the church"? Have you seen that happen in your own life or in the lives of people you know?
2. How is Peter's experience in the Matthew passage an illustration of this observation? What does Peter do first, next, next, and next after that?
3. What did Peter do right in this passage? What do you think he learned from the experience (see 1 Peter 5:8)?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19–25. What do you think it means to "draw near to God with a sincere heart"? To "hold unswervingly to the hope we profess"? To "spur one another on to love and good deeds" and encourage each other? How can your group do these things for each other?

5. According to James, what's the best way to overcome your struggles to follow Jesus?

### Think It Up

We hope that all NHC groups are places where "it's OK to be not OK." How can you extend that grace to people outside your group?

### Pray It Up

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. 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 worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.—Hebrews 10:19–25,

The Message

This week, ask God to show you how you can do this for members of your group.

### Step It Up

As a group, discuss whether now would be a good time to invite new people to join you. The most effective groups comprise about 8–12 people, so first think about whether you have room. Timing is sometimes an issue, too; if some or all of your group are going through a trying time, or if your group is within a few weeks of stopping for the summer, it may be better to wait. But if you can, reach out to people who could become new good friends. (They don't have to be currently attending NHC, as this is a great first step for unchurched friends.)