

TOGETHER WE GROW

Aim

To remind us that we need one another if we are going to be fruitful when we are apart and consider ways in which the ongoing life of your small group can stay attentive to one another's frontlines.

Recall your Sunday theme

Pray to start, then read Hebrews 10:19–25, and briefly recall the sermon together, asking what stuck with each person.

Sermon reminder

The sermon reminded us that we, as churches, help each other hold on to hope together by focusing on God, spurring one another to good works, and meeting together consistently. By drawing near to God, focusing on Jesus, we are renewed as we remind one another of our baptism vows – 'our bodies being washed with pure water.' We also spur one another to good works. The word that translates as 'spur' or 'incite' or 'provoke' is a strange word to link with 'love and good works' but its strength suggests the importance of helping one another live our faith on our frontlines. The writer to the Hebrews recognised that we can help one another by not allowing each other to give up – to keep the challenge before us and keep going. Our scattered and gathered lives are irrevocably connected. Together we remind one another of the core of our faith and its implications for the whole of life. Gathered church is where we are taught, guided, changed, challenged, equipped, encouraged, loved, and commissioned. Then our discipleship is lived out in our scattered frontline contexts.

Explore and discuss further

Take about 15 minutes on each section: question one and the film, reflection on the series, and exploring the future. Then use the remaining time for prayer and/or commissioning.

- 1 The early church to whom Hebrews was written seem to have been tempted to stop meeting. Maybe their previous way of life seemed attractive again, maybe being out of step with society was getting difficult, or maybe they were just busy. When have you been tempted to give up on meeting together? What has kept you going? What is the best thing about gathering as Christians?

Watch the film

Watch *Film 5 – Together* (licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays) and discuss what struck each person.

Reflect on your Frontline Sundays

- 2 Take time to reflect on the Frontline Sundays series as a whole. What have you learnt about yourself? What have you learnt about one another? What have you been reminded of about God?
- 3 What has become clearer about the relationship between the gathered and scattered life of your church? What is more challenging now?
- 4 What stories have you shared with one another that have most encouraged you?

Explore how you can continue encouraging one another

- 5 Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to 'to spur one another toward love and good deeds'. How could your Sunday gatherings keep linking with your Monday to Saturday lives?
- 6 What can you do as a group to ensure that you keep encouraging one another to be fruitful in your everyday lives?
- 7 What's the one thing you don't want to lose from this series?

Close in prayer

Allow each person in the group to share something they are praying for on their frontline. Take time to pray together about these. You may wish to commission, or re-commission, one another for your life on your frontline. If so, you might use this commissioning prayer.

A simple commissioning prayer

We commit ourselves to the Lord's service, in response to his call on our lives.

As a group, we pledge ourselves to sustained prayer and encouragement for (name).

We will join together in supporting you as you obey the commission of God.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you; that in this and in all things you will know Christ and seek to make him known, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.