

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2014  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 12

### **Introduction**

Ask, “Have you ever investigated other religions and looked at how the followers try to establish a right relationship? Let's name some of the most well known religions and what their followers say they must do...”

Guide the discussion so that your group members recognize that all world religions have a process by which the followers must earn their right relationship with the deity. Christianity stands alone as the only faith in which the God that is worshiped takes on the sin of mankind.

Make the transition to today's lesson by reviewing how God has provided each step of the way in the atonement thread (leader p. 142).

#### **Part 1: *Explore the content.***

Ask your group members to describe the tone and relationship described in Hebrews 10:19-22 after someone has read the passage aloud.

Ask the group individually to think of a person of authority in their lives who had/has an “open door policy.” After each has person has considered such a relationship, have each person turn to the person next to him or her and describe this person. Allow for one minute for each person to share. Ask for 2-3 volunteers to explain their situation and make comparisons to the passage.

**OR**

Ask, “Have you spent much time in court? Did you notice that no one is allowed to approach the judge without his/her permission? How is this in extreme contrast to the detailed description in Hebrews?”

#### **Part 2: *Challenge to be faithful.***

Ask, "Do you recall being in a position in which you had only two choices—be faithful or quit? Are you comfortable sharing some of the details with our group?" [For my wife and me it was surviving the 2008 financial downturn and its impact on her ministry. It was Kathy, me, and Jesus. Period. Nothing else. Have you been there?]

Read Hebrews 10:23. Ask, "How are you at holding on?"

Illustration: Many folks have been whitewater rafting. Did you happen to think in the middle of a series of rapids that you are listening to a guide at the back of the boat that you just met an hour ago, and now you are risking your life while following his directions? How are you at trusting your Savior by comparison? Some people in the raft stop paddling and just focus on holding on...are you that person? Jesus promises not to let go!

### **Part 3: *Commit to make application.***

After examining Hebrews 10:24-25, consider who in the body or in your spheres of influence needs your encouragement? (Our English word means "to give heart," from the French word *couer*, which means heart.)

### **Conclusion**

Show a three-minute video clip from *Les Miserable* in which the bishop forgives John Valjean of stealing his silver utensils and gives him silver candlesticks. (Access through the website Wing Clips. Click on the choice '*atonement*' and choose this selection.)

As Jesus has forgiven us everything, how do we need to respond this week?

### ***Teaching Tip of the Week***

Recall from earlier in this series when I mentioned reflective practice. Have you been putting this into use? It isn't enough to just "get through your notes" or "fill up the hour." I want to challenge you to think about how each person responded today. Were there group members who lacked energy? Maybe it was due to your

techniques—perhaps you need to consider how you can involve them more next week. Or maybe the passive reaction was due to things outside of your meeting and lesson. Perhaps you can gently inquire about how things are going and just check on your group members in a compassionate way.