



Explore Your Faith Meetup

Week of December 13, 2020

Register for a Meetup by [clicking here](#).

Welcome! Thank you for being here. With Social Thread you can be part of a community where you will belong, thrive, and explore faith on your own terms. You can learn more about what we're building on our [website](#). If this is your first time, please [fill out this short form](#) so we can stay in touch and send you a **Social Thread sticker** as a small token of thanks.

This meetup is an opportunity to gather together, share conversation, and explore together. Though we all may bring different perspectives there are no wrong answers here. Assume everything shared here is confidential. Let's all do our best to respect one another, listen while others are talking, and be open to learning. The goal is not to have anyone's mind changed but to be in community with one another. The most important rule here is to have fun!

Checking In

Share your name, where you live, what you do for a living, and then respond to the question: What totally selfish material item are you hoping to get for Christmas?

Small Talk

"We've all been in the awkward situation of meeting someone new and having to build rapport quickly — at networking events, industry conferences, charity events, dinner parties, and other social-professional situations. If you're like many people — especially most Americans — you break the awkward silence with a pretty standard question:

"So, what do you do?"

But that question might not be the best way to build rapport with someone else."

The article suggests that other questions we can ask people to create small talk are: what excites you right now? Who is your favorite superhero? What is the most important thing I should know about you?

What is your go-to icebreaker question when you meet someone new? What is your least favorite thing to be asked when meeting new people? What is one thing you wished people asked about you more often?

Source: [8 Questions to Ask Someone Other Than “What Do You Do?”](#) - Harvard Business Review

Shine the Light

We are officially in the season of Hanukkah, also known as “The Festival of Lights.” Rabbi Yehuda Ceitlin reflects on the meaning of Hanukkah:

“The flames of the menorah are meant to shine out into the night, viewable to everyone who is nearby. Those flames present a timeless message of light over darkness, hope over despair and miraculous victories over overwhelming odds. That message is meant to be shared beyond everyone’s immediate family, to the world. Light naturally spreads — and so does hope... In recent months, there have been wonderful stories and examples of people working around the clock and going out of their way to assist others.

People are currently facing many challenges and we can all use a ray of light. Leonard Cohen famously sang, “There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in.” Our sages didn’t leave it to the clergy to facilitate this holiday. It is our collective duty to shine that light — and to be that light.”

Where have you seen others shining light over the past few months? How has someone shined a light on you? How does your faith or belief system inspire you to shine light into the lives of others?

Source: [Tucson Opinion: Chanukah empowers us to bring light, hope — even during a pandemic](#) - Tucson.com

Hard Things Are Hard (but totally worth it)

Scott Young writes:

“Yes intelligence, talent, great teachers and schools all matter. But if you feel like learning something is too hard, scary or not interesting enough to merit the effort, none of those things will help you. The people who fail to learn languages are, overwhelmingly, the people who don’t even try to learn a language. The people who “can’t” learn math, coding, business, marketing or dance, aren’t those who tried and failed—they never even attempted it seriously in the first place.”

Young suggests that to break through the roadblocks of learning new things that we should dive right in, avoid comparison, and embrace the frustration.

What is the most meaningful or helpful thing you have ever taught yourself? What is something you are trying to learn right now? How do you approach learning something new? What do you do when it gets hard or frustrating?

[The Hardest Part About Learning Hard Things](#) - Scott Young

Action Step

What is one thing you'll do this week to keep learning, even if it's frustrating or difficult?

Checking Out

- Share one takeaway from tonight's conversation.
- Share any thoughts and prayers requests you have for the week.

Next Steps

1. If this was your first time, and you haven't already, don't forget to [fill out this short form](#) so we can send you a **Social Thread sticker**.
2. If you found this gathering meaningful the number one way you can support Social Thread right now is by **inviting others to participate in a Meetup**. The second best way is by [leaving us a review on Facebook](#).
3. You can support us by:
 - [making a donation](#)
 - [signing-up for the newsletter](#)
4. If you want even more **swag**, you can:
 - Invite a friend or family member to participate. If they attend a Meetup we'll send you a super soft **Social Thread t-shirt**.
 - Attend six total Meetups and choose between a Social Thread **water bottle or fanny pack**.

We look forward to seeing you next week!