Community Question:
What’s the weirdest/funniest thing anyone ever told you that you weren’t expecting?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and answer the following questions:
(Use blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology in order to dive deeper into God’s word)

1a. What stands out or encourages you in that passage and why?

1b. Why does community matter in the Christian life? Can a person be a faithful Christian without the church- why or why not?
Community matters for several of the reasons mentioned in the sermon. First, Christianity is by nature a corporate faith. Hebrews 10:24-25 makes it clear that it’s a sin for Christians to habitually neglect meeting together. Second, Christian community keeps us on the right path of fleeing sin and pursuing righteousness. Third, Christian Community is a means that God uses to help us persevere in the faith. I included the word “faithful” intentionally. A person can be saved without ever being involved with a church. We are not saved by going to church. Nevertheless, in order to be a faithful Christian, we must be active in a biblical local church. This is an important distinction to make. Given the corporate nature of our faith and the dozens of “one another” passages in the Bible, we cannot live the life God intends for us to live alone.

2. Pastor Andrew claimed that we need to have people in our lives who are not wowed or intimidated by us- do you have anyone in your life who is not wowed or intimidated by you? Who is it?
This is important for us to make a priority in our lives! As a small group leader you should be the first to be able to say you have someone in your life who is not wowed by you. Spouses should be able to say that the other spouse is not wowed or intimidated and not in a negative way as if they are more annoyed rather than respectfully able to differ. This is a great opportunity to
push for your group to find someone who can disciple them and improve their marriage if they are unable to say that they have someone (especially their spouse) who fits this.

3. Pastor Andrew charged the church with carrying others burdens and encouraging others in their Christian life- has anyone at Coastal carried your burdens or significantly encouraged you? (This can be a great opportunity to encourage someone in your group as you meet)
This is a great opportunity to be what the church is incredibly good at when done right- a place where burdens are bore and where people are encouraged without vague words of affirmation, but encouraged in the Lord. If your group has been together for a while it might be good to take some time to go around the room and encourage each other in the Lord. Encouraging doesn’t always have to come when things are not going so well in their life- use this opportunity to encourage your group!

5. Pastor Andrew referenced Judas as an example of inauthenticity- Do you wrestle with being honest and is there anything that you have been concealing from those around you that you could confess or disclose now?
Be prepared- things could get messy and touchy depending on who answers this question. Be prepared to shoulder some intense information and bear some heavy burdens. Yet, if someone does indeed open up, encourage them and affirm their authenticity and honesty. Use this as an opportunity to let you group know this is a “safe space” for confession and authenticity.