

The Importance of Belonging

Week 2

Better Together

VERSES

- Romans 14:19a (MSG) Let us agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other.
- Romans 12:5b (NLT) Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other and each of us needs all the others.
- Genesis 2:18 (NIV) It is not good for man to be alone.
- 1 Corinthians 12:21 (MSG) Can you imagine an eye telling hand, “Get lost; I don’t need you”? Or, Head telling foot, “You’re fired; your job has been phased out”?
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT) Now all of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part.
- Romans 12:10 (NIV) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- James 3:18 (MSG) You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.
- Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another all the more as you see the day approaching.
- Proverbs 18:24 (NIV) A friend sticks closer than a brother.
- Romans 12:10b (GW) Excel in showing respect for each other.
- 1 Peter 3:8 (NLT) All of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.
- 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) Love covers a multitude of sin.
- Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- 1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB) I beg you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so that there won’t be splits in the church. I

plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

- Ephesians 4:2b (NLT) Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.
- Romans 14:1 (MSG) Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.
- Ephesians 4:25 (MSG) No more lies, no more pretense. Tell you brother the truth. In Christ's body we are all connected to each other. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- Philippians 4:8 (NIV) Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things.

Connection Group Discussion

1. Who or what are you committed to? What does your support system look like?
2. What about showing respect and honor to others presents the greatest challenge to you?
3. What does encouragement look like in your life? What has been the best source of encouragement to you?
- 4.
5. What are your thoughts on needing other people? Not just physically, but the need to spiritually belong to one another.
6. When you encounter a difficult person, what's your initial reaction: avoid, listen but don't engage, or try to fix them? How could you instead react by showing them support and honoring them?
7. Have you ever walked through a time of reconciliation? Can you share with the group what that looked like? Can you think of a story from the Bible of reconciliation?

Challenges

How can you open up and be real, and who can you include by telling them the truth about where you're at and what you're going through?

How can you look for connection with people who think differently from you?