

CALLED TO BELONG

LIVE YOUR CALLING: Week 3

March 4, 2018

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“God is the One who made all things, and all things are for his glory. He wanted to have many children share his glory, so he made the One who leads people to salvation perfect through suffering.” (Hebrews 2:10, NCV)

The Second Purpose of my Life: I was FORMED FOR GOD’S FAMILY.

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” (Ephesians 1:5, NLT)

God’s family is the CHURCH.

“...I am writing these things to you now...[so] you will know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:14–15, NCV)

I am called to BELONG to his church.

“And you are included among those...who have been called to belong...” (Romans 1:6, NLT)

What is the church?

CHURCH: *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία), from *ek*, “out of,” and *klesis*, “a calling” (*kaleo*, “to call”)
“THE COMPANY OF THE CALLED”

FIVE BENEFITS OF BELONGING

1. IN GOD’S FAM/ILY: I FIND MY IDENTITY.

“...you are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)

“Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn’t ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.” (Hebrews 2:11, CEV)

“Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!”” (Matthew 12:49–50, NLT)

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.” (Acts 2:41, NLT)

2. IN GOD'S TEMPLE: I RECEIVE STABILITY.

"Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16, NLT)

"In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:21–22, NIV)

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." (Romans 1:12, NCV)

3. IN CHRIST'S **BODY**: I DISCOVER MY MINISTRY.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27, NLT)

"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others." (Romans 12:4–5, The Living Bible)

"If the foot says, 'I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,' that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,' would that make it any less a part of the body?" (1 Corinthians 12:15–16, NLT)

"In Christ's body we're all connected to each other..." (Ephesians 4:25b, The Message)

4. IN GOD'S **FLOCK**: I ENJOY SECURITY.

"...We are his people, the sheep of his pasture." (Psalm 100:3, NLT)

Psalm 23 (The Living Bible)

Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need!

²⁻³He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what honors him the most.

⁴Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.

⁵You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings overflow!

⁶Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home.

John 10:11–15, 27-29 (NLT)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep...²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.

“Take care of God’s flock, his people, that you are responsible for. Watch over them because you want to, not because you are forced to do it.” (1 Peter 5:2, ICB)

“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God...” (Hebrews 13:17, NLT)

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NLT)

“So encourage each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NCV)

5. IN GOD’S **GARDEN**: MY LIFE FINDS PRODUCTIVITY.

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4–5, NLT)

ACTION STEP CLASS 101 / PEACE 1-DAY

“Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”
(Ephesians 3:21, NLT)