



Title: JOY IN BELONGING

Main Scripture: Acts 16:11-15

Joy in belonging can be found through Jesus Christ and through other people.

We are made.

(Ex 34:5-7, Act 1:8)

We belong.

We're called out.

It stretches us.

(Phil 2:3-4)

We're centered on Jesus.

We're focusing on a purpose that really matters.

Joy in Belonging | September 23/24, 2023

Small Group Sermon Study | Acts 16:11-15

Prayer: *Father, we thank You for who You are. May we be renewed and transformed through the study of Your word. Holy Spirit, lead us as we read, discern and discuss this passage together. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Icebreaker: One of the joys in belonging is being known by people. Share one thing about yourself that those in your group may not know about you. 😊

Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. “Together we were made to belong in a special place of community, that calls out the best in us and stretches us beyond ourselves, where we are centered on the Lordship of Jesus together and we stand shoulder to shoulder, focused on a purpose that really matters.”
 - How does this statement of Pastor Craig’s land on you?
 - Do you feel like this is how you function as a small group? Do you stretch and challenge each other? Call out the best in each other? Have a common purpose?
 - If yes, how? If not, why, and where might you want to make changes as a group?
3. Pastor Craig mentions that connecting in community is not meant to only happen socially, but rather it is also meant to be a place where we are transformed, made more like Jesus, and called out to be a part of God’s unique family.
 - Do you see your small group as being a part of a family? Yes or no?
 - How does your answer to this affect the ways in which you interact with each other, the larger church as a whole, and the community around us we are called to serve?
4. How would you describe the purpose of your group? One of the purposes Pastor Craig mentions is, “We pour out ourselves to rescue other people so that they can find real joy.” Does your group have an openness to new people joining? Share your thoughts about this with each other. How might you grow towards that as a group if it isn’t a focus already?

Personal Reflection and Prayer

Take a moment to consider your heart and response to this message. How can members of your group pray for you to grow? How can you encourage each other? Share any additional thoughts with one another and end with prayer for each other regarding these things.

Prayer: *Close in prayer together, praying for yourself and for one another, according to whatever God has shown or spoken to you today.*