

Following Jesus [Belong] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon is the second part of a series on discipleship, focusing on what it means to truly belong to Jesus. Jonathan emphasizes that believing in Jesus and belonging to Jesus are inseparable. Drawing from 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, the message explores how God has anointed, sealed, and placed His Spirit in every believer as a guarantee of His promises. Belonging to Jesus is not a feeling to be worked up or a status to be earned. It is a fact to be lived out, rooted in the reality that God has already claimed us as His own.

The sermon also unpacks Galatians 2:20 to show that discipleship involves a daily dying to the old self and allowing Christ to live through us. True belonging to Jesus reshapes identity, decisions, relationships, and purpose. Obedience does not produce belonging, but genuine belonging naturally produces obedience. Jonathan challenges the congregation to stop striving to earn acceptance and instead live from the secure foundation of being sealed, anointed, and loved by God.

Intro Prayer

Lord, we come before You today grateful that You have already claimed us as Your own. As we open Your Word together, we ask that You quiet the noise of our striving and our self-doubt. Help each of us to set aside what we think they know and be open to what You want to speak into our hearts today. We do not want to just have a good

discussion. We want to encounter You. Soften our hearts, sharpen our ears, and let Your truth take root in us in a way that changes how we live this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one group, team, or community you have been a part of that made you feel like you truly belonged, and what made it feel that way?

Key Verses

- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- Ephesians 4:30
- John 10:27-29
- Matthew 16:24-25
- Romans 12:1
- Galatians 2:20

Questions

- Jonathan said that 'belonging to Jesus is not a feeling, it is a fact you wake up to.' Do you tend to treat your belonging to Jesus as a feeling that comes and goes, or as a settled fact? What influences that?
- In 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Paul describes God as having commissioned us, sealed us, and placed His Spirit in us as a guarantee. Which of those three realities is hardest for you to personally receive and why?

- The sermon drew a clear distinction: obedience does not produce belonging, but true belonging produces obedience. How does that reframe the way you think about following Jesus in your daily life?
- Galatians 2:20 says 'my old self has been crucified with Christ' (past tense) and 'it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me' (present tense). Jonathan pointed out that identity is settled but surrender happens daily. Where in your life do you find it hardest to surrender daily?
- Jonathan mentioned that many of us feel more at home with the world than with Jesus. In what areas of your life do you notice yourself still trying to belong to the world rather than living from your identity in Christ?
- Matthew 16:24-25 says following Jesus requires giving up your own way and taking up your cross. What is one specific thing in your life right now that you sense Jesus is asking you to lay down?
- The sermon described how belonging to Jesus unfolds practically in relationships, work, suffering, repentance, and mission. Which of those areas feels most challenging for you right now, and what would it look like to live from a place of belonging in that area?
- Jonathan closed with this question: 'Are you living as if you believe you already belong?' How would your daily decisions look different if you fully believed that you are already sealed, anointed, and claimed by God?

Life Application

This week, choose one area of your life where you have been striving to earn acceptance or prove your worth, whether at work, in a relationship, or in your walk with God. Each morning, before you engage with that area,

take one minute to remind yourself of this truth out loud: 'I am anointed, sealed, and claimed by God. I belong to Jesus. I do not have to earn what He has already given me.' Then ask the Holy Spirit to guide your decisions in that area from a place of security rather than striving. At the end of the week, reflect on whether that simple practice shifted anything in how you showed up.

Key Takeaways

- Believing in Jesus and belonging to Jesus are inseparable. When you truly place your trust in Christ, you are marked as His own, not because of your performance, but because of His purchase of you through His blood.
- God has anointed, sealed, and placed His Spirit in every believer as a down payment and guarantee of everything He has promised. Your belonging is not a hope. It is a secured reality.
- Obedience does not produce belonging, but genuine belonging naturally produces obedience. Living as someone who belongs to Jesus reshapes every area of life, including relationships, work, suffering, and mission.
- Discipleship requires a daily dying to the old self. While salvation is a settled moment, sanctification is a daily process of surrendering your agenda to Christ and allowing Him to live through you.
- The motivation for following Jesus is not fear or obligation. It is love. Because the Son of God loved you and gave Himself for you, your entire life becomes an offering and an expression of that belonging.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for this time together and for the truth that we do not have to earn our place with You. You have already anointed us, sealed us, and placed Your Spirit in us as proof that we are Yours. As we leave this conversation, we ask that You make that truth louder than the voices that tell us we are not enough. Help us to stop performing and start living from the security of belonging to You. Where we have been striving, bring rest. Where we have been hiding, bring honesty. Where we have been living for ourselves, bring surrender. Let Christ live through us this week in our relationships, our work, our struggles, and our ordinary moments. We love You, and we trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.