

Better Together

Week Two | Belonging Together

Introduction Welcome back to **Better Together**! This week, your Group is going to have a conversation about one of the foundational parts of our faith: belonging. Where the world often makes us compete for our spot at the table, Jesus gives us a better way to belong in which everyone is welcome and nobody sits alone. Jesus invites us to belong exactly how we are. For us, **Better Together** begins with accepting this invitation to gather around the table and share our lives with each other.

Instructions The sections below will help you guide the conversation. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the conversation. In the “Big Idea” section, feel free to use only some of the questions. Finally, the “My Life” section is to help you identify where in your life God is speaking to you. Remember to slow down and letting everyone answer, rather than rushing to finish!

Getting Started 10 minutes After introducing any new guests, chat through the following questions, one at a time. Tell us about a time you felt like you belonged. Was it a sports team, theater troop, great work environment? What made you feel like you belonged?

Big Idea 15 minutes Read 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8. If possible, have a different person read each of the verses. To begin, what word or phrase stands out to each of you in the passage? Why does that word or phrase seem important? Now, here is one big idea to highlight from the passage: “**Belonging together, as modeled by the apostles, requires more than sharing our beliefs. It requires sharing our lives.**” The apostles shared more than their beliefs – they shared meals, laughter, struggles. Sharing our lives like that is something to aspire to, but it can be intimidating. What often keeps you from sharing parts of your life with others? Finish this sentence with a word or phrase: “For me, belonging begins with _____.”

My Life 15 minutes Finish by asking God to help all of you identify where He is speaking to each of you. After taking a minute to pray, talk through these final questions. What is one thing from this conversation you want to remember a week from now? Is there a specific thought related to belonging together that you need to write down? Is there anyone you need to share more of your life with?

Conclusion Thank everyone for showing up again and investing in the conversation. Does anyone have any prayer requests? Does anyone have any pressing needs? Does anyone have any questions? Be sure to share any important information about your next Group time. Like last time, close the conversation by praying. Then to the snacks!