



## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week 1 of "Who we are" series

### SHARE A THOUGHT

When do you remember wishing you could 'belong?' (At work, school, social, etc.)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Most of us faced challenges of belonging at multiple points. It could even be in this church.**

### LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

What do we learn about our being included in God's family?

Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 3:1

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We were all adopted because of God's love, included through Jesus' work, an act of God's will.**

What do we learn about being inclusive of others?

Romans 15:7

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We accept others because Jesus accepted us.**

Galatians 3:28

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We are to include (help others belong) from all races and places of people**

James 2:1-4

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We are to avoid all favoritism, to be careful to not prefer certain people to others. As we all know, this is a real temptation.**

1 John 4:7-9

**NOTES TO LEADERS: God is love and initiates all love. We are loved, included, and belong because of His love. Our role is to do the same with all people.**

How does our final destiny inform how we should live now?

Revelation 7:9

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Our destiny is to be with people of all kinds in heaven. We should be intentional to include all people now.**

Revelation 21:3

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Our destiny is to be with God and His family forever. Our present life should reflect who we are – God’s inclusive family.**

What does belonging to God and His family mean to you? Could you share this with your group? With others?

#### LIFE CONVERSATION

Who first helped you feel included in God’s family? What did they do?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: It is a powerful thing to hear how God used people to include us.**

With the Celtic Christians, ‘People could belong before they believed.’ How could we practice this? What would this look like?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Helping people feel included has multiple aspects. Please ask someone to take notes and send them to me. It would be helpful to learn from the first question about how we can improve in helping people to belong.**

Why should we be the best at helping others belong? Why is this important in our mission to be “Rooted and Reaching?”

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Love flows out of the heart of God (1 John 4). Helping others to be included, to belong should be our way of life as God works in and through us.**

#### HEALTHY RHYTHMS

Choose a time this week when you can enjoy time alone with God. Perhaps reread the Scriptures about your adoption into His family. (See above)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a new weekly section in our notes. This particular rhythm is essential for us to draw near to God. Please share with me the response.**