

“Is Church Something I Attend or a People I Belong to?”



*Remember: The goal of small group is 100% participation. Everyone talks.

OPEN IT

- When you were growing up, where did you feel like you really belonged? What made that place or group feel different from other places you were part of?
- What's one group, team, or community you've been part of where people depended on each other? What made it work—or what made it fall apart?

READ IT:

- Romans 12:1–13

EXPLORE IT:

- **Belonging or Attending.** The message asks whether church is something we attend or a people we belong to. What do you think is the difference? What helps a gathering of people become a community?
- **Belonging Begins with Jesus — Romans 12:1–2.** Paul says to offer our whole selves to God “in view of God’s mercy.” How does remembering what God has done for us shape the way we offer him our lives?
- **One Body, Many Members — Romans 12:3–5.** Paul says each member belongs to all the others. What makes it hard to admit that we need other people? What can happen when we begin to see both our need for others and our value to them?
- **Humility in Real Life — Romans 12:3.** The message describes humility as recognizing both our need and our value. Which is harder for you: asking for help or believing you have something valuable to offer? Why might that be?
- **Gifts for Others — Romans 12:6–8.** Paul names gifts such as serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Which of these have you

experienced from someone else in a way that mattered to you? What might that suggest about how we can serve one another?

- **Love That Shows Up — Romans 12:9–13.** Paul connects sincere love with honoring one another, praying, sharing with people in need, and practicing hospitality. Which of these practices feels most natural to you, and which one would stretch you?
- **The Cost of Belonging.** The message says that sincere love requires sacrifice and that devotion means continuing to show up when life gets difficult. What can make investing in people inconvenient—and why might it still be worth it?
- **From Rows to Circles.** Small groups and ministry teams can create opportunities for belonging, but they don't automatically make relationships meaningful. What helps a group move beyond attending the same gathering toward genuinely knowing and caring for one another?
- **Contributors, Not Consumers.** Where do you see a difference between approaching church mainly for what you receive and approaching it as someone who has something to contribute? How might that change the way we participate?
- **One Step Toward Belonging.** The message invites everyone to take one step toward deeper connection. What is one realistic step you could take this week—to ask for help, offer help, use a gift, invite someone in, or make time for a person?

DO IT:

- **Ask for Help.** Identify one area where you could use wisdom, practical help, or prayer. Reach out to a trusted person rather than carrying it alone. [Rhythm: Community](#) · [Guidemark I: Invest in accountable relationships](#)
- **Offer a Gift.** Choose one specific way to use what God has given you—encouragement, service, teaching, generosity, leadership, or mercy—to bless someone this week. [Rhythm: Serving](#) · [Core Value: Sacrificial Generosity over selfish gain](#)
- **Make Room for Someone.** Invite someone to share a meal, coffee, a conversation, or an activity. Take initiative instead of waiting for someone else to make the first move. [Rhythm: Community](#) · [Core Value: Authentic Living over maintaining appearances](#)
- **Practice Sincere Love.** Choose one person to honor this week through a specific action: listen carefully, pray for them, meet a need, or show up when it would be easier not to. [Rhythm: Prayer](#) · [Guidemark I: Invest in accountable relationships](#)
- **Take Your Next Step.** Choose one step toward deeper belonging at BPF—connect with a small group, explore a ministry team, introduce yourself to someone new, or share a need with someone you trust. Mission: Discover, develop, and deploy faith in Jesus · [BPF identity: A church for our neighbors, the nations, and the next generation](#)

PRAY IT:

Father, thank you for bringing us to Jesus and inviting us into a family where we can love and be loved, serve and be served, know and be known. Give us humility to recognize our need for others and courage to offer the gifts you have given us. Teach us to practice sincere love and devotion, especially when it requires sacrifice, patience, or taking the first step. Show each of us one way to belong more deeply to your people this week, so that together we can help one another find and follow Jesus. Amen.