

Belong Discussion Questions

1.29.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Why do you think having a church to call home is important?
2. Share a story about a time you chose to belong to a group or a church.

Background

Immediately after the recounting of Peter's sermon on the steps to the Temple that called people to repent and be baptized the story shifts. The next scene is about what became the focal points for the new believers after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. As they sought to live together in this new reality the first thing we are told they did is devote themselves to the apostle's teaching. Peter had just laid out the Gospel in his sermon after which 3,000 chose to repent and be baptized and were filled with the Holy Spirit. We know from the beginning of chapter 2 that the group gathered to hear Peter's sermon is from many different places and spoke many different languages. Yet, Paul tells us in other letters that those who follow Jesus are to be one body. These people chose to belong and the way they lived together and the message of Jesus continued to bring new people into their midsts everyday.

Read Acts 2:42-47

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What are the elements of life together found in this story?
2. What did it mean to belong to the early church?
3. What were the results of this new way of living together?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What elements of the practices of the early church could you add to your life?
2. What does it mean to be a member of Hillcrest?
3. If you had been present in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the church how do you think you would have responded?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How can we best create the experience of the early church's connectedness in our busy modern world?
2. Why do you think it does or does not matter that you become a member of a local church?
3. What specifically can we do as the body of believers at Hillcrest to show the world (or Bellingham) the love of Jesus?

Closing

As you finish your time together spend a few minutes praying for the actions to take to so that Hillcrest continues to grow to be more like the vision Jesus has for his church. That it would be made up of people who know who they belong to and that can do life together well.

Reminder: As humans we are wired for connection and belonging. It is something that God has built into us and we need to find ways to use our connections with others to reveal Jesus's sacrificial love.