



Message Discussion Guide—Week 2

Icebreaker question: Talk about an experience you've had where you felt a deep sense of belonging. What was the biggest contributor to making you feel that way?

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-5; Ephesians 2:19-20; Ephesians 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:25-27

1. As you think about what it means to “belong” in our church, how can each of us help others to feel like they belong at Cornerstone? What does this practically look like on a Sunday morning, for example?
2. Read Ephesians 4:5-6. Sometimes in the church, the ways we try to practice oneness turn into something more like “you need to be like me/us.” In the message we were encouraged to think of the church less like a melting pot and more like salad, with each person bringing their own culture/personality/gifts to the table. Talk about the challenges and rewards of approaching oneness this way.
3. In the past and even now, some churches unofficially operate by “Believe, Behave, Belong” — where the focus is on first believing all the right things, then dressing/acting in a certain way, and THEN you can belong. Have you experienced that yourself? Discuss.
4. Read Ephesians 2:19-22 in the NIV translation. What stands out to you in this passage? What are believers “becoming” according to this passage?
5. Instead of “Believe, Behave, Belong,” we are trying to be a church of “Belong, Believe, Become.” How do you think someone’s experience of the latter will be different from the former? What do you hope might be the fruit of this approach?

Prayer: God, we long for our church to be a true expression of the body of Christ. We know that Christians can sometimes get in the way of people feeling truly welcome in the church— help us to be different, Lord. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Practice for the week: The next time you're at church, look for a way to make someone feel like they belong. This might look like striking up a conversation with a person or people who don't seem like they know anyone else, helping someone who looks lost, etc.

FOR ADDITIONAL READING AND STUDY:

Use our Bible Reading Plan for week 2 of the series, available [here](#) or at cornerstonemi.org/brp