



Values to live by

Small Group Discussion Questions

February 16, 2025

Build Your Church - Week 2

Theme: Create a unified community where God's love flows.

In a world where loneliness and isolation are increasing, the church is called to be a place where every person experiences true belonging and the love of Christ. Jesus's teachings emphasize love, unity, and intentional relationships. His vision for the church is a diverse community that embraces differences and reflects His love for the world.

At Calvary Church, we embrace the value of Love First: Creating a unified community where God's love flows. People are looking for acceptance and love within a caring community. We will seek to express God's love and acceptance by being approachable and real. This includes being vulnerable and open to acknowledging our failures and encouraging questions to create a climate of openness. We will extend hospitality, accepting and affirming varying cultures and traditions when they do not conflict with biblical values (John 15:17; Romans 15:7).

Belonging isn't something that just happens—it is something we cultivate. As followers of Christ, we are invited to actively build relationships, welcome others, and create the kind of community we long to be part of.

Today's discussion will help us explore practical ways to embody Jesus's teachings and foster deep connections within our church family.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker - choose one)

Describe a time when you felt truly welcomed and included in a group. What made that experience meaningful?

Think about a place where you feel like you truly belong. What makes that place or group special?

Have you ever felt like an outsider in a community? What helped (or could have helped) you feel more included?

Deep Dive into Scripture

Read the Passages Together: Have someone read John 13:34-35, John 15:12-17 (highlighting verse 12 and 17), Matthew 22:37-39, and John 17:20-23 aloud.

Embrace Jesus's Teaching: Love One Another (John 13:34-35, John 15:12-17, Matthew 22:37-39)

- What does Jesus mean when He commands us to love one another? How does this shape our relationships within the church?
- In John 15:12 and 17, Jesus repeats His command to love. Why do you think He emphasizes this so strongly?
- How does loving others in the way Jesus teaches help create a culture of belonging?

Welcome Differences as Part of God's Beautiful Design (John 17:20-23)

- Jesus prays for unity among believers. What does this unity look like in the church today?
- How can we embrace diversity in our church while maintaining unity in Christ?
- What practical steps can we take to welcome those who are different from us?

Create the Community You Crave

- If we want to experience deeper belonging, what role do we personally play in fostering it?
- What small actions can we take to make our church more welcoming?
- How do intentional relationships contribute to a thriving faith community?

Personal Application Questions

1. Where can you slow down in your daily life to notice someone new?
2. Whose name can you learn this week as a step toward connection?
3. Who in your church or community can you take intentional steps to know better?

Closing Prayer and Reflection

Reflection Prompt:

Take a moment to reflect on what you've learned today. Ask God to show you how you can contribute to a culture of belonging in your church.

Prayer:

"Lord, thank You for designing us to live in community. Help us to love others as You have loved us. Teach us to welcome differences, embrace unity, and actively create spaces of belonging. May our church reflect Your heart for connection and love. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Additional Resources

Explore [Belonging: Reconnecting America's Loneliest Generation](#) (Springtide Research Institute) for insights on fostering meaningful connections.

Meditate on additional Scriptures: Romans 12:10, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42-47.