



## **PART 1: You Belong**

### **INTRODUCTION**

God's desire has always been for the church to be a respite of hope, love and belonging. From His perspective, whoever you are, wherever you've been and whatever you've done, you are welcome. Unfortunately, that's not the experience most of us have with the church. But could it be?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Talk about a time when you felt like you didn't fit in.
2. What's the most ridiculous decision you ever made just to belong?
3. When has a church or group of Christians insisted you behave a certain way to belong? What influence did that experience have on the way you view God or the church?
4. If God put in us the need to belong, the church should be the safest place on earth to do that. Do you feel part of our church? Do you feel part of this group? Does anything need to change for you to feel like you belong?
5. What is one thing you can do to help make the church feel like the safest place in the world for someone else? Who might you invite to church that clearly needs a place to belong? How can this group support you in reaching out?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Jesus loved and embraced those the religious people of his day abused and discarded. He was compassionate. He wasn't irritated by skeptics. He embraced their questions. He accepted the unacceptable.

If Jesus modeled unconditional love, acceptance, and belonging, so should we. So should the church. So should *this* church.

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*It is my judgment, therefore that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.*

**Acts 15:19**