**Sermon Discussion Guide - 1.9.22 Simple Part 2: Belonging Matters**

**Scripture:** *Leader's Note: Below are some of the scriptures Pastor Bobby used in this week's sermon.* ***Consider sharing this list of scripture with your group in a follow-up email*** *after your group meets as a recommendation for further study throughout the rest of the week.* ***Attached is a simplified version of the discussion questions*** *with the Scripture list that can be copy/pasted into an email.*

Main Scripture:

* 1 John 2:18-19

Supporting Scripture:

* Acts 4:32-35
* 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23
* 1 John 2:23
* Matthew 16:15-16
* Romans 10:9

**Discussion Questions:**

*Leader's Note: If your time is limited, or your discussions run long,* ***focus on the bolded questions.*** *In addition to the bolded questions, as time allows, use only the remaining questions that fit your group dynamic best.*

* What are some different groups you belong to, or have belonged to, both formal and informal, online or in-person, etc.? How did you become part of these groups?
* **Read Acts 4:32-35 and 1 John 2:18-19. What do you notice about the groups described in these passages? What actions do you see by those who belong, and those who don't? What does it mean to belong?**
* Pastor Bobby said, genuine belonging is best found in Biblical community. What do you think that means? Have you found this to be true? Where have you found true belonging?
* What is our responsibility as children of God to others who may not yet belong to His family? How do people who don't belong become people who do? In small groups, or at church, how often do you think about making others feel welcome and accepted? Is that an area in which you and your group could improve?
* **Read Matthew 16:13-18. Pastor Bobby said, the key to the deepest level of belonging is belief. How do we see that in this interaction between Jesus and Simon Peter? What is so powerful about belief?**
* Reflect back on the Acts passage. How might our groups take action to draw each other farther into Biblical community? How can we best reach outside our groups to welcome new members and draw them into true belonging?
* What action is God calling you to take this week? How can your group be praying for you?

**Closing Prayer**:

* Ask God to show you what further action he his calling you to right now, and for the strength and courage to respond to his call.

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