

Life Group Discussion Guide

More Than Membership: The Commitment of Belonging

Big Idea

Because God has united us in Christ, we are called to live in harmony with one another, glorify God together, and welcome others as Christ has welcomed us. [1](#)

Read Together

Romans 15:5–7

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Discussion Point 1:

God Creates the Harmony We Must Protect

Romans 15:5

Harmony is not something we manufacture; it is something God creates among His people through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our responsibility is to protect and cultivate that unity.

Supporting Scriptures

Ephesians 4:1–3

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Colossians 3:13-14

"Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Proverbs 10:12

"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul begins with a prayer rather than a command in Romans 15:5?
2. What are some common threats to unity in the church today?
3. Which is harder for you personally: overlooking offenses, refusing gossip, or pursuing reconciliation?
4. How can our Life Group become a place where harmony is protected and encouraged?
5. What practical step can you take this week to strengthen unity with another believer?

Application

- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Is there a conversation you need to have for the sake of reconciliation?
- How can you actively promote unity this week?

Discussion Point 2:

God's Glory Is the Purpose We Must Pursue

Romans 15:6

Paul teaches that unity serves a greater purpose: God's glory. When believers worship, serve, and love one another despite differences, the world sees the power of the gospel.

Supporting Scriptures

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 Peter 4:10–11

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

Acts 2:42–47

The early church devoted themselves to fellowship, prayer, generosity, and worship, resulting in a powerful witness.

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Giving generously reflects trust in God and advances His mission. [1](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is God's glory a greater goal than simply maintaining unity?
2. How does serving others help display God's character?
3. What gifts has God given you that can strengthen the church?
4. In what areas do you sense God inviting you to greater participation?

5. How does faithful prayer contribute to the mission of the church?

Application

Consider your involvement in the church:

- Am I praying?
- Am I participating?
- Am I serving?
- Am I giving?
- Where is God calling me to grow?

Discussion Point 3:

Christ's Welcome Becomes Our Welcome

Romans 15:7

The foundation of Christian belonging is the welcome we have received from Jesus. We welcome others because Christ first welcomed us by grace.

Supporting Scriptures

Ephesians 2:12–13, 19

Once we were far from God, but now we belong to God's household through Christ.

Luke 15:1–7

Jesus welcomes and pursues those who are lost.

James 2:1–4

Believers are warned against showing favoritism.

Hebrews 13:2

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers."

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about the way Christ welcomed us?
2. Why is it sometimes easier to stay within familiar friendship circles?
3. How can a church move from being friendly to truly welcoming?
4. Can you remember someone who helped you feel at home in the church?
5. How can our Life Group help newcomers experience belonging?

Application

This week:

- Invite someone for coffee or a meal.
- Introduce yourself to someone new at church.
- Intentionally include someone who may feel overlooked.
- Pray for opportunities to show Christ's welcome.

Reflection Questions

Take a few moments of silence and discuss:

1. Am I contributing to the harmony of God's family?
2. Am I actively pursuing God's glory alongside His people?
3. Am I welcoming others as Christ welcomed me?
4. What is one specific commitment God is asking me to make today?

Prayer Time

Spend time praying for:

- Unity within Oakhill.
- Healing in any broken relationships.
- Greater participation in God's mission.
- New people who are searching for belonging.
- A culture of grace, hospitality, and genuine community.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for welcoming us into Your family through Jesus Christ. Help us to protect the unity You have created, to pursue Your glory together, and to welcome others with the same grace we have received. Make our Life Group and our church a place where people truly belong. In Jesus' name, Amen.