

House of Belonging Discussion Guide

"A Family of All Generations" (Session 4)



Review:

Our mission of **Becoming like Christ, and sharing him with others** leads us to create and participate in a "House of the Lord" & a "House of Belonging."

Last week, we reflected on what on God's call of the church to become a family of all nations. What this shows is that the world of welcoming, including and connecting with other peoples is part of a community's life if we're following Christ together.

There were two main parts to this value: embracing the church as a family and God's vision of all nations. Revisit and discuss what you sense your role is with this value at Bethel.

- How can you more fully embrace the church as a family?
 - How does God want you to welcome all nations at Bethel? What role can you play?
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Read: Read Psalm 78:1-8 aloud.

After reading, give everyone 3 minutes of silence (*set a timer*) to reflect on the passage. Consider some of the following questions during this time:

- How does this passage give me joy, encouragement, or hope?
- How does this passage challenge me?
- What does God invite us to do in response to this passage?

Reflect: The people of God in every age need to share God's story

1. Who passed along their faith to you? How did they do it? What kind of impact has it left on your life? (See 2 Timothy 1:5-6a)
2. The Bible talks about the importance of passing along our faith. What are the challenges of passing doing this with future generations? In other words, why don't we always do this well, especially if we know this is important?

(See Genesis 9:12, 17:7; 2 Kings 10:30; Esther 9:8; Joel 1:3, Ephesians 3:21)



3. If you were able to name some challenges, take this a bit further. What must change in order for you and our wider community to be better at sharing God's story with one another, especially across different generations?
4. Psalm 78 emphasizes the role of sharing AND listening. What do you think other generations have to offer you? What do you think you might be able learn? (Try to think beyond your direct family relationships)
5. You may have heard the term intergenerational ministry, which "seeks to embrace and capitalise on the gift each generation provides to the other in God's church."

A two-way role of sharing and listening requires intentional relationship, especially if these relationships are across generations. How is this similar or different with how you have thought about intergenerational ministry and life together following Jesus?

Summative Thought: *Since God has called us as a church family to share God's story across generations, we must grow in our ability to listen and allow God to use each other's gifts to deepen our knowledge, understanding and memory of him. As we listen, we also commit to share and walk out our faith intentionally in the relationships around us, acknowledging that we often don't know who can benefit most with what we have to offer. Be obedient. Share your story. Seek out relationships for the hope that you can bless others and being open to how they might bless you*

Challenge: The next 40 Days...Remember and embrace how God has called you to belong in Christ and with one another.

1. Who can you thank this week for how they have passed along their faith to you? Thank them! Reach out to them personally, write a note, share how you are grateful for them.
2. Who is God leading you to intentionally share your faith with? Try to think about someone in a different life stage. If you don't have many people like this around you, consider how you can get connected to a group or ministry that would allow you to be connected with another generation.
3. Consider what other generations can offer you. Ask some from another generation what they are learning about God in this season. Give them the opportunity to remind you about God's story. You might have forgotten some parts.

Prayer: Discuss how you as a group can support each other in these areas. Spend time in prayer for one another.