



A Place to Belong

CCF as a place of community

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NOTES FROM THE TALK

Key word 1 - BELONG

Where do you belong? Who do you belong to?

"To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul." Simone Weil

Thinking about places of belonging and rootedness.

The early Christians belonging to Jesus, devoted to Him.

The Church as a "place to belong".

INTERVIEW WITH PAUL

Missional Worshipping Communities and Small Groups.

BELONGING BEFORE BELIEVING AND BEHAVING...

But Beliefs matter!

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Basic beliefs of our Church.

Key word 2 - GROW

Do we ever stop growing?

BELONGING ⇒ HEALTH ⇒ GROWTH

BIBLE

1. 1 Peter 5: 1 -11
2. Hebrews 10: 19 - 25

How does church help us grow?

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

THE LION

COMMUNITY

Church a place of security and strength.

Church - a place of help and encouragement.

Taking personal responsibility for our growth.



The first commitment of Partners of Calvary C.F.

Statement:

As devoted followers of Jesus we commit ourselves to personal growth through prayer, Bible reading and active involvement in Calvary C.F. community life.

Shorthand version:

Devoted to Jesus, actively involved in community.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's unrealistic for a small group to do everything - so be selective! Modify the questions to suit, they are just to help leaders & groups make a start in discussing and applying what is taught on Sundays.

ICE BREAKER

Brainstorm all the places and groups where you feel a sense of belonging and rootedness.

Then choose three or four of them and talk about why they are good places to belong.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Belong

1. What are the qualities of a local church that make it a good place for anyone to belong?
2. How can I help others to feel that they can belong at CCF?

Bible Readings

1 Peter 5: 1 - 11
Hebrews 10: 19 - 25
John 15: 1 - 17

3. Some of your group may have personal experience of being isolated from other Christians for a while, through personal choice or circumstances. It's sometimes in these situations that the Devil, like a lion, tries to pick us off. Share any testimonies and personal experiences like this with a view to encouraging one another to stay connected, rooted and secure in a community of believers.

Grow

4. During the Spring we will look at the passage from John in which Jesus describes Himself as the Vine. To think about:

- I. Is Jesus talking to His disciples here as individuals or as a group/community?
- II. Is abiding in Jesus an individual or community thing?
- III. How do we abide in Christ?

5. What are the qualities of a local church that make it a good place for anyone to grow into a better human being and disciple of Christ?

6. How does belonging to a church help people to grow?

7. When do we become responsible for our own spiritual growth?

REFLECTION

Read the first commitment of Partners of CCF from the notes overleaf.

Are there any aspects of this commitment that you disagree with, struggle with, or would have a problem committing to?

If you are comfortable doing so, share thoughts about this in the safety of your group.

If you have continuing questions about it, plan to come along to the meeting at church on Sunday 26th January and bring your questions to the Pastors and Elders.