

## “You Belong Here”

Series: Non-Series

(Part 1 of 1)

**Discussion Starter:** Explain what it means to really “belong”.

**Explore:** Read Luke 19:1-10.

Jesus performed numerous miracles throughout His ministry on earth, but none were more impactful than a changed life. Zacchaeus was one such man, who had a chance encounter with God and his life was never the same.

1. How does the Bible describe Zacchaeus (vs. 1-4)?
2. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus when He saw him (vs. 5-6)? How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus’ request?
3. Why did the crowd begin to gossip among themselves (vs. 7)? What does this tell us about the type of person God is looking for?
4. What do the actions of Zacchaeus reveal about the power of God to change a life (vs. 8-10)?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. How does it feel knowing that God wants you to “belong” in His family?
2. What are some benefits as well as responsibilities that come with being part of a church family?
3. Once we accept God’s gift of grace, things begin to change. In what ways have your attitudes, behaviors, or thinking been transformed since becoming a follower of Jesus? What does it mean to constantly “renew” your mind?
4. Read Romans 12:4-5. What do these verses suggest about our responsibility to others in the church? How have others helped you to belong?
5. This lesson really focuses on our responsibility to belong. What point did you really need to be reminded of today? What will you do this week to move from weekend attendee to family contributor?

**Live:**

As a group: The church is the place where everyone should belong. Discuss the “openness” of your group. Brainstorm ways your group can reach out to those who may be disconnected!

On your own: Really take time to think through each point from the lesson. Rate yourself (*not there yet to sold out*) on each point. Next, prayerfully ask God to show you the next step you need to take to really belong.

## Listening Guide Notes

To really belong I must...

1. Dedicate my body.

*“Therefore I urge you brothers in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God which is your spiritual worship.”*

–**Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

2. Say, “No” to the distractions.

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, His good and pleasing and perfect will.”* –**Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

3. Be honest about my strengths.

*“For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. But rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”* –**Romans 12:3 (NIV)**

4. Join with other believers.

<sup>[4]</sup>*“Just as each of us has one body with many members and these members do not all have the same function <sup>[5]</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others.”* –**Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)**

5. Do what I can do.

<sup>[6]</sup>*“We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophecy let him use it in accordance to his faith. <sup>[7]</sup>If it’s serving let him serve. If it’s teaching let him teach. <sup>[8]</sup>If it’s encouraging let him encourage. If it’s contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously. If it’s leadership, let him govern diligently. If it’s showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*

–**Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)**

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* –**1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)**

<sup>[4]</sup>*“There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit. <sup>[5]</sup>There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. <sup>[6]</sup>There are different kinds of workings but the same God works in all of them. <sup>[7]</sup>To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”* –**1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV)**

*“All these are the work of the one and the same Spirit and He gives them to each man just as He determines.” –1 Corinthians 12:11 (NIV)*

<sup>[11]</sup>*“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers <sup>[12]</sup>to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>[13]</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” –Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)*