

Sermon: **BELONGING**  
Series: FRAMILY

Pastor Derek Sanford  
September 20, 2015

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you reflect upon Derek's sermon on belonging, what points stand out for you as most relevant and meaningful? How were you challenged by this sermon? What questions did you come away with?
2. The sermon presents three reasons we need to belong. The first addresses our need to be known. Derek stated, "...when we stay anonymous, sin can grow and fester. We're always better at avoiding sin when we have people around who know us." Read: **Proverbs 27:17** and **James 5:19-20**. What does this mean in the context of your life group? How can we ensure that this sharpening process will improve and intensify over time as our Life Groups develop and mature?
3. Read: **Acts 4:36-37** and **Acts 11:19-26**. The second reason we need to belong is so that we can support one another. Barnabas's support and encouragement of Paul, Mark and others is recognized as significant in the success of the early church. Do you have a Barnabas, "son of encouragement", in your life? In whose lives might you play this vital role?
4. Read **Romans 1:6-12**. Paul writes that "... you and I might be mutually encouraged by one another's faith." How does Paul's longing for the community of the church in Rome instruct us in the value of our Life Groups?
5. The third reason we need to belong is so that we can be challenged. And, we have a responsibility to challenge one another. Read **Hebrews 10:24-25**. During the "Reset" sermon series, Derek reminded us of the truth that "*we judge others by their actions, but we judge ourselves by our intent.*" We all have blind spots. How does a well-functioning Life Group allow its members to stir one another up in a loving and productive manner? How does this process allow a person to become more Christlike?
6. The "Big Idea" for this week's sermon is, "You are not just called to believing, but belonging." How has life in a Life Group helped you to feel more connected to our large and growing church? If you're new to a life group, do you have questions about your group? In what ways do you hope your group will be able to help you grow in your faith?

**Prayer Thought:** Thank God that He created us to need relationship: with Him first and with other believers second. Ask Him to deepen your sense of belonging in your Life Group and in the church.

**Series Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:19 You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household