

Theme:

The Presence of Jesus

Title:

You Belong Here

Desired Outcomes:

This series will focus on understanding where we belong. There are two places we as Christians definitely belong: 1) in the Lord's presence and; 2) Where His blessing is for you.

Core Scripture:

John 4: 1-26

Welcome:

For this message any fun and welcoming ice breaker could work.

The evening might become tough and somewhat confronting, so a light mood will help alleviate some of the potentially awkward situations.

If there are new members always be careful of not creating a space where new members feel exposed or uncomfortable.

Word:

1. We all desire to be comfortable and feel wanted
 - a. The desire to fit is a big motivator in the culture we live
 - b. We usually don't want to be somewhere we feel unwanted
 - c. It can be awkward to go places we feel we don't belong
2. Why might God allow us to feel uncomfortable
 - a. Where we are at is not where He wants us to be
 - b. We are hanging around the wrong people
 - c. We are headed on the wrong path
3. Why might the enemy want you to feel like you don't belong?
 - a. To keep us out of the will of God
 - b. Disrupt our peace
 - c. Get us to give up on people or places that God has placed in our lives to bless us
4. The scripture in John deals with the question of belonging throughout the story
 - a. Jesus travels to Galilee though Samaria – but the Jews and Samaritans don't associate
 - i. Some may believe He did not belong there
 - ii. Verses 7 thru 9 clearly indicate that the Samaritan women thought He should not be there and should not be talking to her
 - iii. Conversely research tells us the women usually went to the well at night but this was noon? Could it be due to her reputation she wanted to avoid the other women? Possibly the other women treated her poorly so she felt like she didn't belong?
 - iv. Jesus is told by the women he doesn't belong
 - v. The women might have been avoiding the crowd because they told her she did not belong

b. Then the disciples return and marveled at why Jesus is even talking to the women but did not say a word? John 4: 27-28

- i. Some say the reason she left abruptly was she felt awkward at the disciples looking at her wondering why Jesus was talking to her, still others think it might be because she was overwhelmed at the reality, she was talking to the Messiah
- ii. If she truly understood what Jesus the living water of salvation, He extended to her and extends to all of us today, she would have understood where the presence of the Lord is, I belong. I belong here because I belong with Jesus
- iii. John 4:39-41 Look at the transformation. Once the Samaritans drank of the living water of salvation, they no longer told Jesus He didn't belong instead they asked Him to stay because where the Lord is, I belong.

The following could be relevant questions to ask:

1. Do you ever feel like you don't belong?
2. Have you taken a drink of the living water of salvation that Jesus offers?
3. What are some of the benefits of being in the presence of the Lord?
4. What are some of the downfalls of not being in the presence of the Lord?

Thoughts to consider:

1. Have any of you ever been in the wrong place, with the wrong people or headed down the wrong path?
2. How did you feel? How did you escape?
3. Jesus is standing at the door ready to offer you the living water of salvation, what's hindering you from receiving it?

Worship:

Music of your choice. Something that puts us in the presence of the Lord

Works:

1. If you have not drank of the living waters of salvation pray for God to reveal to you what's hindering you.
2. Pray for those who struggle with knowing that they belong in the presence of Jesus and where His blessing is for them.