

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

WE BELONG 01 – You Don’t Come Alone – 10/11/2026

COMMUNION

Read 1 Corinthians 10:16–17: *“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”*

Communion is deeply personal, but it is never merely private. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has reconciled us to God and brought us into a new family. We belong to Jesus, and therefore we belong to one another. Before receiving Communion, take a moment to ask: “Jesus, is there anything between me and someone else that You are asking me to address?”

REVIEW

- **We were created for community.** From the opening pages of Genesis, God reveals that human beings were not designed to live alone. Just as there is no substitute for God, there is no substitute for the human relationships He created us to enjoy.
- **Christian community is not about finding the perfect church.** Jesus calls us to love real people, not merely our dreams of what church should be.
- **We are called to pursue a healthy community, not a perfect one.** Christian maturity requires holding two truths together: everyone comes “as is,” with flaws and imperfections, and everyone is invited to participate in becoming the community God intends. We must learn to accept people as they are while encouraging one another toward transformation.
- **The porcupine dilemma** illustrates the challenge of relationships. We need one another, but the closer we get, the more likely we are to hurt one another. When that happens, our natural responses are often to withdraw or attack. Both are failures of love.
- **God shows us a better way.** Before creation, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit enjoyed a perfect community of self-giving love. Through Jesus, we are invited into that divine fellowship and called to reflect that same love in our relationships.
- **Unity is God's work, but preserving it is our responsibility** (Ephesians 4:3). We cannot manufacture true Christian unity, but we can either cooperate with what the Holy Spirit is doing or work against it.
- **Every relationship is an opportunity to participate in God's vision of shalom.** Whenever we forgive, encourage, show compassion, reconcile, confront in love, or make room for someone who feels excluded, we help move our community closer to God's vision of peace.

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Was there a particular story, illustration, or Scripture that challenged or encouraged you?
2. Why do you think Christians sometimes believe that having a relationship with God means they don't really need deep relationships with other believers? How have meaningful relationships contributed to your spiritual growth?
3. What expectations do people commonly bring into church that can lead to disappointment?
4. How can we maintain a beautiful vision for what the church could become without becoming critical or disillusioned with the people who are actually part of it?
5. The sermon described Christian maturity as learning to accept people “as is” while also helping one another grow into what God intends. Why is it difficult to hold both of these together? What happens when we emphasize acceptance without transformation—or transformation without acceptance?
6. The porcupine dilemma described two common reactions when relationships become difficult: withdrawal and attack. Which response do you tend toward? What does that look like in your relationships? What would it mean for you to “flatten your quills” and respond in a more Christlike way?
7. What are some practical ways we can help preserve unity in our church family? Is there one specific thing you could do this week to help someone experience a greater sense of belonging?

PRAYER

Spend a few moments quietly reflecting on this question:

“Am I helping our church become the community Jesus imagined—or am I making it more difficult?”

Then pray together:

- Thank God for creating us for relationships and inviting us into His family through Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us love actual people rather than merely our ideals of what community should look like.
- Pray for humility to recognize our own flaws and grace to accept others with theirs.
- Ask God to reveal ways we tend to withdraw or attack when relationships become difficult.
- Pray for the courage to forgive, reconcile, encourage, and make room for others.