

#### **BELONG - Part 1**

Josh Hawley, Pastor of Community Life October 4, 2015

## Belong to Jesus Christ

John 17:20-23 & Ephesians 1:13-23

Are We the Answer to Jesus' Prayer? (John 17:20-23)

### Belonging to Jesus Christ....

- starts by believing in Jesus. (Ephesians 1:13)
- speaks to us that we are <u>deeply valued</u> by God. (Ephesians 1:14)

- increases our <u>love</u> & <u>gratitude</u> for God's people. (Ephesians 1:15-19a)
- helps us to live with increasing <u>dependence</u> on God's <u>power</u> & recognition of Christ's <u>authority</u>. (Ephesians 1:19b-23)

# **Next Steps**

- o I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- o I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- This week I will pray for The Bridge Church using John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 1:17-19 as a guide.
- I will worship and thank Jesus every day this week using Ephesians 1:20-23 as a guide.



**Lesson Aim:** Being One in Christ requires a growing understanding of what it means to belong to Christ.

**Ice Breaker:** What are some different ways people define "power"?

1. Looking back at your notes from Josh's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. **Read Ephesians 1:15-23.** How does Paul's prayer for his readers cover the past, the present and the future?

3. In verses 15-16, Paul says "For this reason...I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Why is Paul so thankful for the saints?

4. Describe the qualities that Paul's prayer focuses on. What can we learn about praying for others from this?

- 5. Stop for a few moments to pray. Using Paul's prayer as a guide, have 2-3 people pray these qualities over the members of your LifeGroup.
- 6. **Reread vs. 18-23.** Cross-reference Psalm 8:5, 110:1, Ephesians 2:2, Colossians 2:15 and Hebrews 2:14. Christ was made a little lower than the angels in His humanity, but then through the Resurrection was seated at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly realms. What might it have been like as Christ ascended and proclaimed victory from the lower realms through the realm of Satan and into Heaven?

- 7. This same power that raised Christ from the dead and proclaimed victory over every earthly, universal and spiritual power is available to us. What comes to mind when you think about this?
- 8. What experiences of the qualities described in these verses have you had?

#### Close with prayer as God leads you.

Each week we will offer a Scripture memory verse section related to the sermon. Memorizing Scripture is a key tool to resist temptation, make wise decisions, strengthen us under stress, comfort us when we're sad and to witness to those who don't know Christ.

Memory Verse(s) of the Week: Ephesians 1:21-23