

INTRO

- Dr. Brene Brown stated that “fitting in” is a barrier to real belonging. Can you think of a time, perhaps in your childhood, when you tried too hard fit in?

In Search Of addresses the universal quest for identity, belonging, purpose, transcendence and freedom. Today’s discussion explores the human need for belonging, barriers to authentic connection, and practical ways to cultivate community

READ

Ephesians 2:11-22
 Hebrews 10:24-25
 James 5:16
 1 Peter 4:10

REFLECT

When Adam and Eve chose their own way and rejected God’s way their relationship with God and their relationship with one another was fractured. Jesus came to make peace and to reconcile us to God and to one another.

Qu: Considering our need for love and belonging as fundamental to our well-being, what does "belonging" mean to you personally?

Factors like sin, technology (cell phones), and social polarization are highlighted as modern barriers to true connection.

Qu: What do you think is the biggest obstacle to belonging in today’s society? And personally, what might be your biggest obstacle to belonging?

Reflect on *Ephesians 2:11-22* about Jew and Gentile reconciliation and consider how spiritual belonging unites individuals.

Qu: How does the biblical concept of belonging through Christ shape your understanding of community?

RESPOND

Drawing from the principles like showing up, opening up, and serving, identify personal actions.

Show Up: Commit to attending community events or church gatherings consistently. Just being present can start the process of belonging.

Open Up: Share your story and struggles with others. Vulnerability builds genuine connections.

Serve Others: Join a team, volunteer, or look for ways to help within your community. Giving your time creates ties and purpose.

Lead by Example: Encourage others to belong by creating spaces where they feel valued and heard. Whether in casual conversations or formal settings, foster inclusion.

Reflect on Your Gifts: Evaluate how your unique skills and talents can build up the community.

Qu: What are some practical steps you can take to foster belonging in our church community?

PRAY

- Pray for one another that as we search for identity, purpose and belonging, we would find it in Jesus and in one another.
- Pray that each one would take those steps to foster belonging at ENGTA.