

INTRO

- What is your favourite type of food or meal?

READ

Luke 15:1-2

Eph 2:16-22

REFLECT & RESPOND

As we continue our vision and values series, we examine the six core values on which we want to build our church culture. Today, we explore the values of *Engaging* and *belonging*.

ENGAGING (an outward-focused church)

“engaging and attracting those outside the church, making it easy for them to connect with our church and explore the Christian faith.”

Engaging people far from God wasn't just something Jesus did—it was the heart of His ministry. Yet, over time, his followers and church often drifted from this focus. We desire to be an outward-focused church that engages and attracts those outside the church.

Qu: How does Jesus' example of engaging with "tax collectors and sinners" challenge your approach to relationships?

Qu: What barriers prevent you from engaging spiritually with others? How can we overcome these?

As we commit to engaging those far from God, remember that the journey doesn't stop there—it deepens in community.

BELONGING (a belonging church)

“a diverse community where people of all ages and ethnicities feel they belong, are valued, and do life together as a spiritual family.”

As we engage others, we want to invite them into a community of belonging. Each of us has a responsibility to help create a sense of welcome and belonging for others.

Qu: How can we cultivate a deeper sense of belonging within our church community while remaining outward-focused?

Qu: what does being “devoted to fellowship” look like? How can we cultivate this in our church community and small groups?

Qu: Reflect on the quote: “Everyone says they want community and friendship but mention accountability or commitment to people and they run the other way.” Why do you think this is true, and how can we cultivate deeper commitment in our relationships?

We can all take a step towards demonstrating curiosity and taking initiative in getting to know others, both within the church and in our daily lives.

Practical Application

- Reflect on your comfort zones in church and your everyday life. Identify one way to step out of your routine or social circle toward another.
- Practice asking open-ended questions to show genuine interest in others.
- Pray for opportunities to engage with those far from God in your life.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Ask for God's heart toward people; ask for courage to step out of your comfort zone and engage with others as Jesus did.
- Pray that a culture of engaging and belonging will become a greater reality and experience in your group and our church in 2025.