

Belong Facilitator Guide Week 2 – Your Place Here

Session Overview

Every believer is uniquely gifted to serve and contribute to the Church's mission of gospel saturation. This session emphasizes the importance of using our spiritual gifts, practicing stewardship, and engaging in Christlike community. By serving in the Church and fostering meaningful relationships, we align our lives with God's purposes and actively participate in building His Kingdom. Together, we find our place in the life and mission of The Chapel.

Introduction (10 minutes)

Start with a warm welcome (2 minutes)

- Introduce yourself and set the tone:
 - “Welcome to Week 2 of Belong! I’m so glad each of you is here today. This class is designed to help us continue growing in our faith and to get connected to the church body. Whether you’re new to faith or have been walking with God for years, there’s something here for everyone, and there’s a place here for everyone.”
 - “Over these weeks, we’re focusing on what it means to belong to this local church body. Last week, we explored who we are as a church, and today we’ll dive into your role within the church and how you can find community here within the church.”
- Ask participants to introduce themselves:
 - “Before we jump in, let’s take a moment to introduce ourselves. Share your name, and as we’re doing this, I’ll also take attendance in our group.”

Set Expectations for the Class (1 minute)

- “This is a safe space to ask questions, share insights, and learn together. There’s no pressure to have all the answers—we’re all here to grow.”
- “Each week, we’ll watch a video, reflect on the teaching, and engage in discussion and activities. The goal is to take what we learn and apply it to our lives.”

Introduction to the Workbook (1 minute)

- Explain the purpose:
 - “The workbook is your companion for this class. It includes teaching summaries, reflection prompts, and daily Scripture readings and prayer prompts for you to engage with during the week. It also has space for journaling your thoughts.”
- Walk them through the structure:
 - “The workbook follows a weekly rhythm: opening discussion, teaching notes (and a place for you to take notes), a clear next step, and practice and reflection. Each section builds on the last, so I encourage you to engage with it throughout the week.”

Icebreaker (5 minutes)

- Get to know one another:
 - “Before we begin, let’s take a moment to connect with each other. Share your name and answer some of these questions as you feel comfortable. These questions can be found on page ** of your workbook.
 - *What did you learn last week? What did you learn through this week’s practice and reflection activities?*
 - *How has being part of a church or small group impacted your faith journey so far? If you’ve never been part of a small group, what’s held you back from joining one?*
 - *What unique gifts, skills, or passions do you feel God has given you to serve others?*

Introduction to the Video (1 minutes)

- Set the stage for the teaching:
 - “As I mentioned before, today’s video is all about your place here. We’ll explore what it means to get connected to community, ways to serve, the importance of generosity, and discuss church conduct. As you watch, I encourage you to take notes in your workbook.”
- Provide a brief transition:
 - “Let’s turn our attention to the screen now as we explore ways for you to belong, here at The Chapel. We’ll kick off talking about God given gifts.

Teaching

PLAY VIDEO

DISCUSS

- *What are some ways you’ve seen God use your gifts or passions to bless others?*

Section 1: God Given Gifts

The Church exists to glorify God by making disciples who love God, love the Church, and love the world. Every believer has been uniquely equipped with spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit to serve the Church and fulfill this mission. These gifts are intentionally given to build up the body of Christ, glorify God, and share His love with the world.

Key Points:

- The Church is the body of Christ, called to equip believers for works of service and to build unity and maturity in faith (Ephesians 4:12-13).

- Spiritual gifts are empowered by the Holy Spirit for the common good, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11-13.
- Discovering your gifts involves prayer, reflection, input from others, experimentation with serving, and tools like spiritual gifts assessments.
- Examples of spiritual gifts include teaching, serving, encouragement, leadership, and generosity, all contributing to the Church's mission.
- Using your gifts strengthens the Church, glorifies God, and allows you to experience joy as part of His mission.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Pause the video, and facilitate discussion. This discussion should be about 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, pull the group back together, and continue the video. These discussion questions can be found on page ** of the workbook.

DISCUSS

- *What gifts or passions has God given you?*
- *How might He be calling you to use them here at The Chapel?*

Section 2: Connecting to our Church

Being part of The Chapel means more than attending services—it's about connection and community. Whether through serving, joining a community group, or participating in support groups, there are many ways to find your place and live out your faith. Connection is foundational to growing in Christ and contributing to the mission of ensuring every man, woman, and child has repeated opportunities to hear and see the Gospel.

Key Points:

- **Serving Opportunities:** Engage in ministries like Kids/Students, Hospitality, Worship, Production, and care-focused teams like the Donation Hub, Go Team, or Congregational Care to live out your faith.
- **Community Groups:** Small gatherings for Bible discussion, prayer, life-sharing, and serving together, fostering encouragement, accountability, and Christlike relationships.
- **Support Groups & Counseling:** For those needing focused discipleship or healing, free biblical counseling and support groups are available as gospel-centered communities.
- **Spiritual Growth through Connection:** Serving and participating in groups helps build relationships, use spiritual gifts, and experience personal and spiritual growth.
- **Next Steps:** Visit the website, use The Chapel app, or talk to campus staff to explore groups and service opportunities. There's a place for everyone to belong and grow.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Pause the video and encourage participants to write a response to the provided prompts. Give 1-2 minutes for participants to reflect and write their response. Then, encourage participants to discuss their responses. This discussion should be about 5 minutes. After discussion, pull

the group back together, and continue the video. These discussion questions can be found on page ** of the workbook.

- *How could being part of a community group help you grow spiritually and connect more deeply with others?*
- *What is your next step to join a gospel-centered community?*

Section 3: Living out our Faith Through Generosity

Stewardship is the biblical responsibility of managing everything we have—time, talents, and resources—as gifts from God, to be used for His glory and purposes. It’s a lifestyle of trust, gratitude, and worship, aligning our lives with God’s mission and investing in His kingdom. At The Chapel, stewardship includes financial giving, serving with our talents, and offering our time to advance the Gospel and make an eternal difference.

Key Points:

- Everything we have belongs to God, and we are called to manage it faithfully for His purposes (Psalm 24:1).
- Giving reflects gratitude, trust in God’s provision, and joy as an act of worship (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- Practical options to give include text-to-give, in-person giving, Church Center app, or recurring gifts through the website.
- Stewardship also includes offering time (volunteering in ministries) and talents (using skills to serve others).
- Giving supports ministries like Chapel Kids, Chapel Students, Kingdom Come partnerships, impacts and fuels local, national and global partners, and supports church-wide resources to grow disciples and share the Gospel.
- Prayerfully consider how to use your time, talents, and resources as faithful stewards, aligning your life with God’s mission.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Pause the video, and encourage participants to write a response to the provided prompts. Give 5 minutes for participants to reflect and write their response. Then, encourage participants to discuss their responses. This discussion should be about 5 minutes. After discussion, pull the group back together, and continue the video. These discussion questions can be found on page ** of the workbook.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

- *What does stewardship look like in your life right now?*
 - *Are there areas where God is inviting you to trust Him more and give generously?*
 - *Write down one specific way you can practice stewardship this week, whether through giving financially, serving, or meeting a need in your community.*
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Section 4: Church Conduct

At The Chapel, membership is a commitment to living in a way that reflects Christ and fosters a healthy, holy Church community. Members are called to pursue personal holiness, unity, and love, recognizing that our conduct affects our relationship with God and the health of the Church. Unity, even amid disagreement, is central to our shared mission, keeping Christ and the Gospel at the center of our relationships.

Key Points:

- Members are encouraged to pursue holiness, which includes growth in spiritual disciplines and living out the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20-21), and members are called to prioritize Gospel-centered relationships, avoiding divisions over secondary issues.
- Unity doesn't mean uniformity; it means keeping Christ at the center, even when opinions differ.
- Our unity is a testimony to the love and truth of Jesus, demonstrating the transformative power of the Gospel.

Are there areas where you've allowed differences to create division? How can you contribute to unity in the Church this week?

Pursuing holiness

As members of The Chapel, we are called to pursue holiness and love, reflecting Christ's character in every aspect of our lives. Holiness is a continual journey of growing in Christlikeness, while love is the defining mark of a Christ-centered community. Restorative church discipline underscores the Church's commitment to accountability, care, and restoration, ensuring that sin is addressed in humility and love for the health of the individual and the Church body.

Key Points:

- Holiness

- Holiness involves every aspect of life, from thoughts to actions, as we strive to reflect Christ (Titus 2:11-14).
- Biblical calls to holiness include unity (Romans 14-15), diligence (1 & 2 Thessalonians), and family relationships (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).
- Holiness is not about perfection but about progress, as the Holy Spirit transforms us.
- Loving One Another
 - Love is both a command and an identifying marker of the Church (John 13:34-35).
 - Biblical love is patient, kind, and selfless, as described in 1 Corinthians 13.
 - "One another" commands in Scripture, such as encouraging (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and forgiving (Colossians 3:13), guide how we live out love within the Church.

Wrap up (5 minutes)

Response Form

- “Before we close, I want to encourage you to fill out the response form. It’s a great way for us to stay connected and for you to share any questions, insights, or prayer requests you have after today’s session.”
 - *It can be found in your workbook via QR code. The link is thechapel.com/belongtwo*
- “Please fill it out now! It should only take a minute or two!”

Church Center App

- “If you haven’t already, I encourage you to download the Church Center app. It’s a helpful tool for staying updated with what’s happening at our church, connecting to groups and events, and managing your involvement.”
 - If you need help downloading the App, I’m happy to help you!
- “It’s a great way to stay plugged in, and I’d love for you to explore it this week! You will also have access to Belong resources and our Belong group via this app.”

Next Step

- “Turn to page ** of your workbook. We are encouraging you to take a next step this week - find a place to serve. We have plenty of service opportunities available here at the Chapel that we’d love to help you get connected to. Your simple first step is to visit thechapel.com/serve and fill out the service interest form.

Practice and Reflection Section

- “As we go into the week, I encourage you to spend time in the *Practice & Reflection* section of your workbook. This includes Daily Scripture readings and prayer prompts to help you grow closer to God.”

Reminder of Next Week

- “Finally, don’t forget that our next session is next week at the same time and place. We’ll be exploring what it means to live on mission together as a church family.”

- Close in prayer
- “I can’t wait to see you all next week. If you have any questions or need anything between now and then, feel free to reach out!”

Next Step

This week, take a next step to belonging at The Chapel.

As you reflect on your God-given gifts and passions, where can you joyfully serve in this season? Begin the process to serve at The Chapel.

Visit thechapel.com/serve and fill out the service interest form.

Practice & Reflection

This week, take some time to practice what you’ve learned and to spend time in reflection.

Daily Reading & Prayer Plan

Each day includes a short passage from Scripture, a reflection question to help engage with the text, and prayer prompt. As you prepare to engage the Scripture daily, consider the following steps:

1. Read - read the passage slowly - consider reading it 2-3 times, and reading it out loud at least once
2. Observe - ask questions of the text. Who wrote this text? Who are they writing to? What’s happening? Where is this happening? When? Write down your observations.
3. Apply - Consider how you should respond to what you’ve read. Answer the reflection prompt provided if that’s helpful
4. Pray - thank God for what He’s shown you, and pray to faithfully live it out. Use the provided prayer prompts to guide you.

Day 1: 1 John 3:1-10

- *Reflection Question:* What does it mean to you to be called a child of God, and how does that shape your identity?
- *Prayer:* Father, thank You for loving me so deeply that You call me Your child. Help me to live in a way that reflects my identity in You, turning from sin and embracing Your love and truth each day.

Day 2: Romans 8:31-39

- *Reflection Question:* How does this assurance of God’s love encourage you in moments of fear or doubt?
- *Prayer:* Lord, thank You for the unshakable promise of Your love. When I face fear or doubt, remind me that nothing can separate me from Your love and that I can rest securely in Your care.

Day 3: Psalm 136:1-12

- *Reflection Question:* How do you see God's steadfast love at work in your life today?
- *Prayer:* God, I thank You for Your enduring love that never fails. Help me to see the evidence of Your love in my life and give me a heart of gratitude for all You've done.

Day 4: John 15:9-17

- *Reflection Question:* What does it look like to remain in God's love daily? How can you love others in the same way?
- *Prayer:* Jesus, thank You for loving me with the same love the Father has for You. Teach me to remain in Your love and to show that love to others through my actions and words."

Day 5: Zephaniah 3:14-17

- *Reflection Question:* How does knowing that God delights in you change the way you view your relationship with Him?
- *Prayer:* Lord, thank You for rejoicing over me with love and delight. Help me to see myself through Your eyes and to rest in the truth of Your constant presence and care.

Day 6: Ephesians 3:14-21

- *Reflection Question:* What aspect of God's love stands out most to you, and how can you embrace it more fully in your life?
- *Prayer:* Father, I pray to know the vastness of Your love in my heart and mind. Fill me with the fullness of Your presence so that I may live boldly in the assurance of Your love."

Day 7: Isaiah 43:1-7

- *Reflection Question:* How does knowing you are God's treasured possession give you confidence and peace?
- *Prayer:* Lord, thank You for calling me by name and claiming me as Your own. Help me to trust in Your promises and to walk in the confidence that I am loved, redeemed, and precious to You."