



SERIES: ALL THINGS NEW
MESSAGE: "BELONG"

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: NOV 1, 2020

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY: GENESIS 12:1-5

In the sermon series, *All Things New*, Pastor Brad examines the spiritual growth of Abraham through the course of his life to flesh out four principles that help our church focus on its mission (affectionately referred to as the 4 B's). This week we are looking at the second B: Belong.

In Genesis 12, not long after first encountering God, Abram is forced to redefine his understanding of what it means to belong. God tells Abram that he is going to create a great nation through him, a community of belonging. However, he must leave his current home and travel to a new land as part of receiving this promise. Abram trusts God, and follows his command. Throughout a lifetime of trusting and going, he discovers that God's definition of belonging is more beautiful and true than anything he could have experienced had he stayed where he was.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What was the high and low of your last week?
2. What different groups or clubs do you belong to?
3. Have you ever moved from one city to another? What was that like?
4. What about Brad's message this week stands out to you?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What is it that God wants for Abram?
2. What is God's posture toward Abram as he is commanding him to make these significant changes to his life? How does Abram respond?
3. Why does God desire to make a nation? What is his goal?
4. How did Abram show his trusting obedience to God?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Pastor Brad mentioned connectedness in his message. How do you think Abram would have viewed connectedness? How do we, and if there's a difference, what is it?
2. Who in your life is very 'connected'? What does that look like?
3. Can you think of any group in the world today that struggles with belonging? Who are they and why do they struggle?
4. How have you seen connectedness and belonging change people? How does a lack of those impact people?
5. How are connectedness and friendship related? How do the people in your life define friendship?

cont.

CONTINUED:

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In what areas of life do you feel it is easy to find connection? How is Jesus a part of that?
2. When and where have you desired to belong?
3. When and where have you helped someone else feel like they belong?
4. Abram had to leave something behind to follow God and as a result, he found a deeper sense of belonging. Have you ever left comfortable relationships and places to find belonging, or connectedness? If so, what was that like?
5. Pastor Brad said that Jesus calls us His friends, rather than servants. What does this distinction mean to you? What implications does the idea have for the identity of people who follow Jesus?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What responsibilities do you have as someone who belongs to the Church in general and B4 in particular?
2. How can you move toward those things this week?
3. How can the people you're connected with in your life help you?

Thanks to Josiah Johnson and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions.