Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.

Opening Activity:
Think of a time you entered a room, group, or church where you were unsure you belonged. What did someone do—or fail to do—that shaped your experience?

Read:
Acts 9:26-30
Acts 4:36-37
Philippians 3:7-9
2 Timothy 2:1-2

Discussion Questions:

1. What idea from the message most challenged the way you think about belonging, church, or discipleship? Why?
2. Who helped you know that you belonged to God and with His people? What did that person do, and how did it affect the direction of your life?
3. Read Acts 9:26-27. The believers' fear was understandable, yet Barnabas stepped forward. How did he make room for grace without pretending Saul's past did not matter? What can we learn from both responses?
4. Read Philippians 3:7-9. Saul had religious knowledge and achievement, but he still needed Jesus. Where might religious activity, reputation, or performance compete with knowing and trusting Christ in your life?
5. The message named two discipleship rhythms: spend time with God and share life with others. Which is stronger in your life? How could neglecting either one limit your ability to help someone follow Jesus?
6. It is often easier to invite someone to church than to share your life with them first. Why? What might relationship-first discipleship cost you—and what could it make possible?
7. Who is on the edge of faith or Christian community right now? If you are comfortable, share their first name. Which open-door step fits this week: share time, share your story, read Scripture together, bring them into community, or invite them to church? Let the group pray for your next step.

Challenge for the Week:
Thank and open. Contact the person who helped you belong and thank them. Then choose the person you named in Question 7. Pray for them, make one specific relational invitation within 48 hours, and follow through. If they are not ready, stay present—love them as a person, not a project.

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH