

# Group Questions – *Belong*: Week 1

01/14/24 – Pastor Kirby

## *Getting to Know Me Questions:*

- In YouTube: search “Guess the company slogan quiz” play the first game together (4 mins long)
- Who is the most “famous” person you’ve met? Tell the story.

## *Into the Bible Questions:*

- What’s something from the teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- We talked about the Church mantra/slogan, which is... “Live. Hope.” Did you know this was a thing? When you hear it or have heard it, is there anything that comes to mind?
- We talked about the purpose of our Church which says “We exist to demonstrate the Living Hope of Jesus to our community and to our world.”
- **READ:** 1 Peter 1:3-4
- How do you define “Hope”? How do you define “Hopeless”? Is one easier than the other?
- The 4 stages of faith/discipleship at Living Hope are... 1) Belong 2) Believe 3) Become 4) Behave
- Pastor Kirby said ‘everyone has a desire to belong somewhere or with someone, and if you say you don’t then it’s probably because you’re already accepted into it.’ Talk about a time you visited or attended a Church in which you felt awkward/not welcome/scared etc? What about that experience made it that way?
- **READ:** Luke 19:1-10
- What sticks out to you as you read this story, either for the first time or again? (Maybe read it again, in a different translation)
- Pastor Kirby said “We (Church People) expect people to act like Jesus when they don’t know Jesus yet.” (This is a question of behavior). In what ways do we (Church people) do this to guests who come?
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## *Application Questions:*

- Pastor Kirby asked “what will people experience when they come to living hope to find Jesus?” How would you answer this? Think of your co-worker, friend, family member and they come for the first time, what do you want them to experience?
- What are some practical things we (LH Church people) can do to show people they can come and just belong?
- In what ways can I (yes, you reading this) be a part of helping people to simply belong?
- How can we “Live Hope” to our community this week?

Mantra: Live. Hope.

Living Hope Wesleyan Church

1 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

### **Questions:**

What does it mean to have hope?

What does it mean to be hopeless?

**Hopeless:** feeling or causing despair about something.

**Hope:** a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

### **Living Hope Purpose:**

We exist to demonstrate the Living Hope of Jesus to our community and to our world.

### **Faith Journey**

1. BELONG
2. BELIEVE
3. BECOME
4. BEHAVE

### **BELONG**

Luke 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

<sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give...

**Question: what will people experience when they come to Living Hope find Him?**

God created you in His image, so you could reflect His image to those around you!  
What kind of image are you giving Jesus based on your reflection?

**We expect people to act like Jesus when they don't know Jesus yet.**

Do not judge **your** insides by **other** people's outsides.