



Belong

Week 1- Deeper Friendships Discussion Guide

“You can belong, before you believe.” God’s intended for His Church to be a place where you find family. You can belong here at The Cove. Let’s look at what it looks like to live in thriving spiritual community with one another.

What you will need: A Bible or your Bible app, a notebook, pen, and highlighter. The verses highlighted below are linked so that you can easily access them during your study time.

Jump Start

1. What is the last thing that you experienced which you couldn’t wait to tell others about?

Note: Join us this week for the [daily Cove Devotions](#) and [MDWK Deep](#) on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm. Celebrate Recovery is both in person and virtual. Find out more information [here](#).

2. Read [1 John 1:3 and Matthew 22:37–40](#). What is it that John is wanting others to experience? What is your role as a believer? How does this fulfill The Great Commandment?
3. Read [Romans 12:5](#). We are many parts, but all one body. We are united. How does being a part of a team help with a common goal? What is the goal of the Church?
4. Read [1 John 1:4-7](#). Take a moment to pray. Ask God to help you walk in the light of His truth for your life. Use this prayer to begin. [Play this song](#).

God, I am listening. I know You are always speaking, moving, and working. I acknowledge my part in not being still enough to listen: too worried about things, what’s next, the virus. I surrender it all. God, I thank You for delivering me from my blindness, idleness, and impatience. Speak, God. Your servant is listening. I give You glory for the light that I walk in, because of what Your precious and mighty Son Jesus did on the cross for me. Father, I want to live in the freedom of community. Direct me to godly friendships. Surround me with people that will love me and tell me the truth in love. Help me to step out of my cocoon and step into the fullness of all that You have for me in community with fellow believers. I am grateful. I am in awe. I am humbled by Your love. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

5. **Group Discussion:** What stood out most to you from today’s discussion and prayer? Any verses stand out to you? Is there a person on your mind or a next step?

Deeper

Here at The Cove, our mission is to Introduce our friends to Jesus, Learn to follow Him, and Celebrate His Presence in our lives. We want you to be fully equipped with the Word of God by spending time with Him daily through prayer, and through studying His Word with others. We believe this is how you will be equipped to make disciples.

Communion is a symbolic way to show we belong to Jesus, to remember what He did for us, and to join in the fellowship of His suffering, with Jesus and with each other. We're forgetful people, so it's a regular remembrance and celebration of Jesus' sacrificial death. The breaking and eating of bread has to do with Christ's body being broken on the cross. The drinking from the cup has to do with the shedding of Christ's blood, whereby we are forgiven. Today, we will be taking communion as a group. You will need the following elements: any type of bread and any kind of juice.

6. **Remember the sacrifice and promise that Jesus has made.** Take time for personal reflection. Examine your relationship with the Lord and with others. **Read [Philippians 2:1-11](#).**
7. **Pray as A Group:** Thank God for what He has done and His promises to us with prayers of gratefulness, joy, and hope.
8. **Host Communion:** We take and eat the bread, followed by the cup. Feel free to offer prayers or praise in between.
9. **[Worship Together](#)**
10. **Memorize This Verse This Week:** **[1 John 1:9](#)**. Embrace the freedom of forgiveness not condemnation. God loves you.