



# Belong

## Part 5 – Let's Restore People

### Discussion Guide

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We've been in the book of 1 John, learning how to belong to God, to His family, and to each other. Chapter five deals with loving and protecting each other. It touches on truth and evil. Let's also focus on how to reach out and rescue others who are in danger of falling away from the family of God.

**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 pet peeve or habit do you overlook or put up with from a friend or family member, just because you love them? (Be careful not to embarrass anyone...and keep it anonymous!)
2. **Read [1 John 5:1-3](#)**. If we really believe Jesus is God, the Christ, and our Savior, what specific things will we do? (Look for the three main verbs in this passage.) Which seems hard to you personally? Why would John use the word "burdensome"?
3. **Read [1 John 5:16-18](#)**. What first step should we take in restoring another believer? How can we know whether to pray or not? What does verse 18 say about believers sinning? What promise is in this same verse?
4. **Restoration and reconciliation are a crucial part of belonging to the family of God.** Every member is important and valuable. Every person is deeply loved by God. What are some practical steps we can do to restore someone?

**[Galatians 6:1-2](#)** (*Restoration begins when godly people notice sin and gently reach out to rescue the sinner. Then by listening and supporting—carrying them—as they heal. There is also a warning to watch ourselves as we participate in this rescue.*)

**[1 Peter 4:8](#)** (*Love should overlook small hurts and failings, in an effort to heal and restore, not to hide sin.*)

**[Colossians 3:16](#)** (*We should personally abide in the Spirit and in the Word, so that we can lovingly, biblically admonish or correct someone with Godly wisdom.*)

**[Matthew 18:15](#)** (*To win back a brother/sister, we should personally go to them if there is an issue. Never tell anyone else about it first. Never gossip or backbite. Go directly to them and gently confront.*)

**[Proverbs 3:3-4](#)** (*Loyalty and kindness go a long way towards repairing a break in a relationship. Always think the best. Always consider them and their interests and thoughts. In this way, you will be blessed with favor: God will work on your behalf and even men will be disposed to reconcile and respect you.*)

5. We were asked to be intentional about carrying others' burdens this week. As a Life Group, **pray together this first stanza of Francis of Assisi's prayer.**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

**Next, ask group members to pray** for peace and reconciliation in specific areas such as marriages, within families, within our country, within the Church family, etc.

### **Deeper**

John's letter to the church was not divided into chapters. His letter is all about love, but also about warning the family of God. So the concerns he mentions in Chapter two are carried over into Chapter five.

6. **Read [1 John 2:18-21](#).** What appears to be going on in the church? Why was it crucial that John confronted the heresy and the split?
7. **Read [1 John 5:16](#)** again. This verse talks about praying for sinners and about "a sin that leads to death." John leaves this very general, but he gives instructions. What does he tell us to do/not do? Why would this be his advice?
8. Some people think that this sin that leads to death is this same sin Jesus mentioned. **Read [Matthew 12:22-32](#) and [Mark 3:22-30](#).** Both passages relay the same incident and Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees and His teaching on "the eternal sin" or "the unpardonable sin." **Read [Luke 12:8-12](#),** which is the same teaching, but not specifically tied to the casting out of demons and healing of the blind and mute man.

God intentionally leaves this sin somewhat vague. There are many different theological viewpoints ("[The Unpardonable Sin](#)," "[Got Questions?](#)") but why would this not be more clearly and definitely stated? How can you trust God with this issue? How can you be assured and not fearful? Take time to read some of these verses for assurance.

**[Deuteronomy 29:29](#)**

**[John 3:16-17](#)**

**[1 John 2:1-2](#)**

**[Romans 1:20-25, 33-34](#)**

**[2 Peter 3:9](#)**