



# Sermon Growth Guide

**August 22, 2021**

**Belong - Lonely**

**John 4:5-13**

**Key Verse:** John 4:10

“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

**Big Idea:** Jesus invites you to belong.

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## Foundations

Today we begin a new series, ***Belong***. What a timely series it is, as we all continue emerging in various ways and timing from the isolation of this past year's pandemic.

Tim says, “We were not made to be alone. Solitude can be a blessing but alone is no good.” **Think of a time in your life when you've felt isolated and lonely. How would you describe that time, and what contributed to it?**

**What factors in our lives and in our world today would you say push against our need to belong, depriving us of this experience that's so important to us?**

Tim states, “The start of learning to belong is recognizing where we are lonely.” **What are moments in your life that can fuel a sense of loneliness? If you don't tend to feel lonely, why do you think that's the case?**

Pray that God moves you daily toward meaningful engagement with others, and that He will lead you to others who may be feeling lonely and isolated, in need of an encouraging word or touch of God's love through you.

## Understanding God's Word

We're told in 4:6 that “Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well.” Think about that statement: God, in our form, was tired! **Though we're months from the Advent story of the nativity, how can this glimpse encourage you about God's love in sacrificially taking upon Himself our form?**

Why do you think the Samaritan woman was startled by Jesus' request in 4:9? **What can Jesus' actions model for us in our interaction with others who may be different from us?**

## Applying God's Word

This sermon series reminds us of our need to belong in community with others. **As you process these words with others, share how that group has helped you in your efforts to belong. And reflect upon how God can use you to enhance others' experience of belonging within this community.**

## Witnessing God's Word

Tim says, “Where are the lines that leave us alone? Can you jump one?” **Where can you jump a relationally separating line this week, as Jesus did with this Samaritan woman?**