City of God Part - The Joy of Belonging

Nehemiah 10–11

What does it really mean to belong to Jesus, and how should that belonging shape the way we live?

In Nehemiah 10–11, God's people respond to His faithfulness by committing themselves to a shared way of life. Their covenant isn't simply a declaration of belief. It carries real implications for their relationships, priorities, resources, and responsibility to one another.

Through Jesus, we're invited into something even more beautiful. We belong to Him, and because we belong to Him, we belong to one another.

While this belonging calls us to surrender our self-centered ways, it also opens us to a life far greater than we could experience on our own. We discover the joy of sharing our unique gifts, carrying one another's burdens, and being loved and cared for in return.

The responsibility of belonging is inseparable from the joy of belonging.

Lifegroup Questions:

1. Belonging changes how we live.

In Nehemiah 10, the people respond to God's faithfulness by making practical commitments about how they'll live.

Where in your life do you see a gap between your professed belonging to Jesus and the way you're actually living? Are there habits, priorities, attitudes, or relationships that communicate something other than *"I belong to God and His people"*?

2. The gift of our differences.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 and 1 Peter 4:10.

How have you experienced God's grace through someone whose gifts, personality, or perspective are very different from your own? What might our community be missing if everyone were just like you?

3. The joy of giving and receiving.

We talked about how some seasons we're able to give generously, while in other seasons we need to be carried. Both are part of belonging.

Which comes more naturally to you: offering your gifts and support to others, or allowing others to care for you? Why do you think that is?

4. The responsibility and joy of belonging.

Read Galatians 6:2 and Romans 12:15.

What would it look like for us to move beyond simply gathering together and become more deeply involved in one another's lives, sharing both the joys and the burdens?

5. A response to God's love.

The sermon emphasized that our obedience isn't an attempt to earn God's love. It's a response to the love we've already received.

As you consider everything we've discussed, is there one way you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to live more fully as someone who belongs to Jesus and His people?