



Look Back

- Group check in....what were some big things you were dealing with this past week?
- As we look toward the fall...is there anyone we want to ask to join our group? This might be a good time to also discuss scheduling this fall (when we will meet, the plan, etc.)

Look Up

To belong. Some would argue that to belong is one of the strongest human desires we possess. Journalist Sebastian Junger writes in his book *Tribes*, "Humans don't mind hardship, in fact they thrive on it; what they mind is not feeling necessary. Modern society has perfected the art of making people not feel necessary." He goes on to cite occurrences and studies from the 1800's of person after person, whether through capture or choice, leaving their families and becoming part of a Native American Tribe; and at the same time, there are few (if any) documented cases of a Native American leaving his tribe and becoming part of the European culture marching across the Americas. Junger concludes that this rests not only in necessity but in belonging. We all want to belong - no matter our ethnicity, familial background, socio-economic standing, or age. We desire to belong.

With that said, God also desires that we belong...with Him! His desire is that all people are welcomed and find their place in His Kingdom. What's His plan for this? You. It's His Church. We are God's plan to welcome people into the Kingdom...where they can belong!

Read Leviticus 19:9-18; 33-34

- What you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people and yourself?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- When in the past have you felt like you don't belong? When have you felt like you do belong?
- **NOTE:** *to be clear, when we say "the foreigner" we are talking about people from different ethnicities, countries, languages, etc. This includes refugees, immigrants (legal or illegal), other nations, etc.*
- When we talk about "the foreigner", we are touching on a potentially divisive subject. Yet, God is clear about how we, as His people, are to behave toward the foreigner. What does our American culture say? Does that American culture line up with what God is saying to His people? Is there any prejudice in you that you might need address?
- How can we be active and obedient to God concerning the foreigner?
- Do we, as a group, want to take any action that might help us to welcome "the foreigner" in any way? Why or why not?

Spend some time praying about these things together.