

## I Belong to Something Safe

### Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of July 30-August 5

Hosts – This is the second sermon in the I Belong series. Last week we focused on I Belong to Something Bigger and the fact that Christ-followers are a part of the universal church and the local church. It really is a both/and proposition.

This Week's Passages – Be sure to read the Scripture during your session. God's Word is vital in our relationship with Him.

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:1-3

1. **Say**, the first point of the sermon is Safe because of our love of one another.

John 13:35 – be sure to read this verse in your group.

**Ask**, how do you see people in our church showing love of one another? (it is okay if most of these things shared are general in nature. Don't press too hard for them to get to specifics for now.)

**Say**, Safety is built on mutual love - bearing one another's burdens.

**Ask someone to share briefly** how someone else in the church has shown them what it looks like to bear another's burden in the church.

2. **Say**, The second point shared was - Safe from a culture of hurtful talk. Read James 3:6

**Say**, Our tongue (a fire) can cause destruction straight from hell. **(Please guide the discussion in a way that people are not allowed to share negative things they have heard or even shared. We do not want to create a culture where critical or hurtful talk is shared as a "prayer request" or "I have a concern about this person . . . ". There is a proper, biblical way to handle situations in the life of the church. Protect your group time so that harmful talk is never accepted.)**

**Read** Romans 1:29-31 – and remind the group that these verses talk about the antithesis of Eph 4:1-3

**Ask someone to read** Psalm 34:13-14 –Michael made the point that words hurt and the Sticks and stones rhyme is bogus. Words hurt and we are Christ-followers who are committing to be a culture where hurtful talk is not accepted.

3. **Say**, The third point is Safe because of forgiveness and patience. Read Matthew 6:14-15 - if you forgive, you will be forgiven and Colossians 3:12-13 - forgive because we have been forgiven. Allow a short time for discussion on this point.

4. **Say**, the last point from Michael's sermon is Safe for your soul, not your sin.

(Take the time to read or have someone read this passage or at least summarize it in your group.)

John 7:53; 8:1-11

““[[They went each to his own house, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman

standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." ]]"

John 8:1-11

**Say,** There are many things that could be pointed out in this passage but Michael focused on the importance of the church being a safe place for our soul but not for our sin. Allow time for there to be discussion on this point and then be sure to make this following point -

**The woman caught in adultery recognized Jesus as Lord and Jesus told her to Go and sin no more. We will be a church that is safe for one's soul but not for sin.**

As time permits, you may want to share these verses as well. Ephesians 2:18-22 - the church and a building analogy

"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:18-22

Say, Michael reminded us that to help Friendship Community Church and the universal church to be Safe, these four things will be evident in us individually as Christ-followers and as a body of believers.

Love

Watch your tongue

Forgive

Call out sin

Close in prayer after allowing time for requests to be shared. Commit to help one another to live out the truth of the gospel in our own lives and to help hold one another accountable to what God has called us.

And . . . know that you are being prayed for as you host your group and also as you live on mission.