

I Belong to Something Ancient

Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of August 6-12

Hosts – This week we find ourselves in the third sermon in the I Belong series. We have focused on I Belong to Something Bigger and the fact that Christ-followers are a part of the universal church and the local church. The second sermon in the series focused on I Belong to Something Safe and the fact that at FCC one's soul is safe, but not our sin. We are willing to come alongside and help us become more like Christ. This week we heard I Belong to Something Ancient. (You might want to review a little with your group this week as you launch into this week's discussion.)

This Week's Passages – Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; John 1:1-4 (It is a good idea to reread these passages as you prepare for this week's group.)

I Belong to Something Ancient

This week at church the order of service (the programming) changed up a little and it was exciting to observe both baptism and communion/Lord's Supper. Also the introduction of the prayer in song of Speak O Lord is a beautiful prayer that focuses us on the truths of God and His Word. The role you have in hosting a group is an important one and thank you for preparing to host your group this week.

Say, New and Improved many times leaves us longing for so much more. Ask, what is one thing you were promised at being new and improved but left you wanting so much more?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; John 1:1-4

Read or have these verses read. "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after."

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Ask, what is vanity? (Vanity - inflated pride in Something that really is valueless.) Are there things that you at times get caught up in that really are trivial or meaningless in the long run?

Read these verses from John 1.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

John 1:1-4

Say, Michael made this statement - We pursue the untested new at the expense of the ancient and timeless true. **Ask**, What do you think he meant by that statement.

Remind your group that we value restoration over amputation here at FCC. Restoration takes time and care while amputation seems easier.

Say, even though it all seems like the things we have discussed so far are introduction, the background really helps us explore the four main points of Michael's sermon.

1. In its truth.

Ask, How can we know the Bible is true – (You can summarize these next couple of sentences - reliability of underlying documents that predate the printing press. Over 5000 documents! The evidence is there but we have to choose to believe. It stills require faith.) **Ask**, How does faith figure in to your life?

2. In its history. Remind the group that many faiths that don't involve Jesus. (But we do start counting the years with Jesus birth- BC and AD)

Say, We see God's faithfulness in our individual lives, corporate and universal body of Christ. Read Jer. 31:31-34 the new covenant is mentioned. The can be assured of the faithfulness of God regardless of the unfaithfulness of man.

3. In its practices. Baptism and Lord's Supper/Communion

Say, Our flesh craves experiences. Remember that we are a soul with a body rather than a body with a soul.

Ancient, timeless, and true is attractive to our soul where new appeals to our body/the temporal. These two ordinances are beautiful reminders of the faithfulness of a timeless God.

Say, Our souls in the present need a connection with the past. So community is not just here and now but those who have also come before. Hebrews 11-12

4. In its future. God is clear in His . . . **(talk about each sub-point and have someone read the Scripture)**

- Ancient commandment - love the Lord . . . Matthew 2:37-39

- Ancient commission - Matthew 28:18-20

- Ancient promise - He will come again and make us whole John 14:3

Close your time in prayer reminding one another of the beauty of being a part of something ancient and tried and true. Remind participants to think through this statement **(We pursue the untested new at the expense of the ancient and timeless true)** more this week and encourage them to reread the two main passages this week and to focus on the truth of who God is and what He has done to redeem and restore us back to Himself.