





Opening Question: Where have you seen God's grace this week?

Belong • Believe • Become

A 9-week spiritual strengthening journey for Westside Church

Session 1: Belong to God

Why this journey?

A simple path for deeper discipleship at Westside

More than inspiration—we need *formation*.

Belong • Believe • Become gives us shared language.

The goal: disciples who know God, trust God, and become like Jesus.

Tonight's focus

Before we serve, lead, or grow—we receive the truth that we belong to God.

The 9-week map

Belong • Believe • Become

BELONG

Identity • Community •
Honesty

BELIEVE

Scripture • God's character
• Gospel

BECOME

Christlikeness • Disciplines
• Multiplication

Session 1 begins where transformation must begin: identity.

Dallas Willard: Renovation of the Heart

“The revolution of Jesus is in the first place and continuously a revolution of the human heart or spirit. It did not and does not proceed by means of the formation of social institutions and laws, the outer forms of our existence, intending that these would then impose a good order of life upon people who come under their power. Rather, his is a revolution of character, which proceeds by changing people from the inside through ongoing personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another. It is one that changes their ideas, beliefs, feelings, and habits of choice, as well as their bodily tendencies and social relations. It penetrates to the deepest layers of their souls...from those divinely renovated depths of the person, social structures will naturally be transformed so that “justice roll[s] down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24)... It is the only thing that can do so.”

Westside Church Discipleship Guides

Belong • Believe • Become

Leadership Manual



Participants Guide



Session 1: Belong to God

One thing to know + one thing to do

KNOW

You are God's beloved child.

DO

Spend daily time receiving God's love.

Chosen in Love

Ephesians 1:4–5

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—”

“What word or phrase lands on you?”

The Spirit of Sonship

Romans 8:15–16

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.”

“What word or phrase lands on you?”

The Spirit of Sonship

1 John 3:1

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

“What word or phrase lands on you?”

Willard's transformation focus

Renovation of the Heart: Ch. 1 & Ch. 4

Area being formed

Soul & Identity

The heart is the center of the person.
God's goal is a unified life formed from
the inside out.

Leader emphasis

We don't earn belonging.

Transformation begins by receiving
the truth that God already loves us in
Christ.

The identity question

What are you living from?

Many disciples know they are loved by God...

**but still function from fear, performance,
approval, shame, or comparison.**

Tonight is an invitation to bring that into the light.

False identities we carry

Not all identity is loud—some of it is hidden

I am what I accomplish

I am what people think

I am my failures

I am my usefulness

I am my pain

I am on my own

Group prompt: Which one feels familiar this week?

Discussion: go beneath the surface

What identity do you struggle to believe?

Where do you still try to earn approval?

How would this week change if you lived as God's beloved child?

Formation practice

5 minutes: receiving prayer

Quiet your heart and ask:

“Jesus, how do you see me right now?”

Write one sentence. Share only what feels appropriate.

This week's practice

Small enough to do. Deep enough to matter.

5 minutes daily

Sit quietly with God—no phone, no agenda—
and repeat:

“I belong to God. I am His.”

Then journal one sentence about what you noticed.

One-on-one follow-up

Use this during the week

1 What did you notice in stillness?

2 Where did you feel resistance?

3 What false identity showed up?

4 How can I pray for you?

Make discipleship personal, not programmatic.

Closing prayer

Receive before you strive

Father, help us live this week as your beloved children.

Form our hearts from the inside out. Teach us to belong to You before we try to prove ourselves to anyone else.

Amen.

Belong • Believe • Become

Session 2: Belong to the Body

Before next time: practice 5 minutes daily receiving God's love.

“I belong to God. I am His.”