



April 2018

The Power of Belonging

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-39

FOCUS MINISTRY

Missional Outreach

fellowship!

“Advocacy through Analysis”

Spring 2017-2018

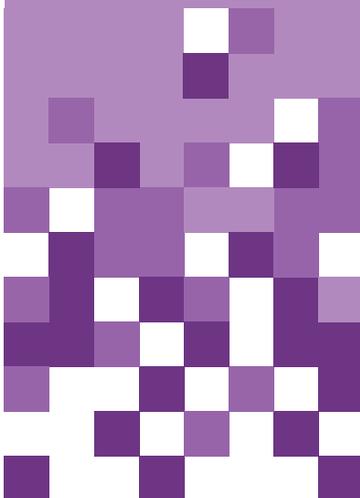
http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/spring18_fellowship
final?e=1254077/58802821

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Bruce Hopson felt “an old drunk” like him did not belong, especially in church. However, Bailey and Jennifer, leaders at Grace & Main Fellowship brought church to Bruce. The hospitality of Grace & Main helped Bruce to encounter Christ and not only changed his life, but empowered Bruce to be an agent of change for the Kingdom of God in his own way.

- **ENGAGE:** Students will discuss and seek a deeper understanding of belonging in regards to the Kingdom of God.
- **EQUIP:** Students will discuss John 4:1-39 and see how the woman at the well not only experienced redemption through her encounter with Christ but felt empowered as well.
- **EXTEND:** Students will identify ways in which they can be empowered to affect change in the community through their relationship with Christ.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will identify ways in which the church can leave the walls of the church building.





The Power of Belonging

LEARNING GOAL

Students will discuss how belonging to the Kingdom of God is transformational.

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GETTING READY

1. Read the article, “The Impact of Welcoming: Bruce’s Story”
2. Read about the work of Grace & Main at <http://graceandmain.org/commitments/>
3. Bruce Hopson has passed away since the writing of this article. Read about his life and the impact he had after finding belonging in Christ here: <https://thirdchanceministries.wordpress.com/2017/10/01/bruce-was-ready/>
4. Read and meditate on John 4:1-39

ENGAGE

1. Divide and Discuss:
 - When was a time when you felt like you did not belong?
 - Did anyone go out of their way to welcome you? What was that like?
 - Was there ever a moment when you felt you did not belong in the church? Why?
2. Come back together and discuss:
 - What does it mean to belong to the church?
 - How do you help others to belong?

EQUIP

1. As a group, read John 4:1-39
2. Discuss (together or divided):
 - What did Jesus do to engage with the woman?
 - Why did the disciples find Jesus’ interaction strange?
 - How did the woman change after sharing water with Jesus?
 - How did Jesus help the woman to feel she belonged?

EXTEND

1. Make a list:
 - What are the elements of the church?
 - What all can you take away and still be a church?
2. The Grace & Main Fellowship took church outside the walls of a church building by taking meals to houses. Brainstorm: How can you congregation take church outside the walls of your church building?

MISSION PROJECT

1. Identify someone who may not feel they belong to the church and discuss how the youth group can appropriately help them sense a belonging to the congregation.
 - Is there a shut-in students can take a meal to?
 - Is there someone students can take Communion to?
 - Is there someone who is interested in Christ, but not in youth group activities or church activities the students can extend a sense of belonging to?