

KIDMUNITY | This I Believe

Lesson 10: We Belong

Small Group Guide

Bottom Line:

The Church is God's family.

Memory Verse:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Activity: Missing Piece

Supplies Needed:

- 16-piece puzzles (K-1 groups)
- 36-48 piece puzzles (2nd-5th groups)
- One puzzle per group (or multiple if the group is large)

Prep

- Remove **one piece from each puzzle** (do NOT remove an edge piece)
- Hide the missing piece somewhere in the room
- If using multiple puzzles, hide each missing piece separately

How it Works

Gather your group and say, "Alright, we're going to work together to complete a puzzle. This should be pretty easy... if you work together." Give each group their puzzle and let them begin.

As they get close to finishing, they'll notice a piece is missing. Let that moment sit, then ask, "Wait... is your puzzle complete? What's wrong?" After they respond, say, "It looks like something is missing. I wonder if it's somewhere in this room..." Then let them search for the missing piece. Once they find it, allow them to finish the puzzle.

Leader Debrief

Bring everyone back together and process the moment together. Ask a few questions to help them reflect:

- What did you think when you realized the puzzle wasn't complete?
- How did it feel knowing one piece was missing?
- What changed when you finally found the missing piece?

Then guide them toward the bigger idea: "Just like that puzzle, the church isn't complete without every person. Every piece matters. When one piece is missing, something isn't right—even if most of it looks finished."

Help them connect it personally: "You are not extra. You are not just watching. You are a part of what God is building, and it's better when you're connected. When you show up, when you participate, when you encourage others—you're helping the whole thing come together the way it's supposed to."

Activity: Hot Seat

Set the Tone (important)

Before starting, clearly explain: "We're about to do something where we build each other up. That means everything we say needs to be encouraging, kind, and helpful. Not silly or jokes at someone's expense—we're speaking life into each other." Let them know this is a safe space, and if something unkind is said, you'll pause and reset.

How it Works

Have everyone sit in a circle and choose one student to sit in the middle (the "hot seat"). For each round, two kids and one leader share something encouraging about that person. Keep it short and specific, and have leaders go first often to model meaningful encouragement that points to character, faith, and who God is shaping them to be. Rotate so each child has a turn in the center.

As kids share, gently guide them beyond surface-level comments and toward things that really build someone up. If something unkind or distracting happens, pause and redirect calmly so the tone stays encouraging.

Leader Debrief

After several rounds, pause and ask how it felt to hear people encourage them, whether it

was easy or hard to encourage others, and why encouragement matters. Then connect it clearly: “This is what the church is supposed to be like. We don’t tear each other down—we build each other up. God made us to help each other follow Him, and when we encourage each other, we’re living like the church.”

Discussion Questions

Kindergarten / 1st Grade

- What is something you liked about being part of your group today?
- How did it feel when everyone worked together?
- What is one way you can be kind or help someone at church?
- Why do you think it’s important that everyone is included?

2nd / 3rd Grade

- What did the puzzle teach you about why every person matters?
- Why is it better to follow Jesus with others instead of by yourself?
- What does it look like to encourage someone at church or in your group?
- What is one way you can be part of what God is doing instead of just watching?

4th / 5th Grade

- What does it mean that the church is people, not just a place?
- Why do you think God designed us to follow Him in community instead of alone?
- What happens when someone doesn’t participate or feels left out?
- What is one way you can take ownership and be an active part of your group or church?

Leader Wrap-Up & Prayer

“Over the past several weeks, we’ve been learning about who God is and who we are because of Him. We’ve seen that God made us in His image, that sin broke our relationship with Him, that Jesus came to rescue us, and that we are saved by grace. We’ve also talked about how God is still at work in us, changing us over time. But today we saw something just as important. We were never meant to follow Jesus alone.”

“God made us to be part of His people. The church is not a building; it is people. That means you are part of it. You matter, you belong, and you have a role to play. When you

show up, encourage others, and participate, you are helping build something bigger than yourself. As we wrap up this semester, remember this. God is with you, and you are part of His church. You are not on the outside looking in. You are included, and you matter more than you realize.”

Prayer

“God, thank You for everything You’ve been teaching us. Thank You that You made us, love us, and made a way for us to be close to You through Jesus. Thank You that we’re not alone, that You’ve given us each other and made us part of Your church. I pray that each of these kids would know they matter, that they belong, and that they have a place in what You’re doing. Help them to encourage others and to live as part of Your church wherever they go. We love You and trust You with what You’re still doing in us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”