

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 26-27

“Belonging with Purpose”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a & Luke 4: 14-21; <https://bit.ly/2Wrm3SK>

Big Ideas Raised

- By the Spirit, each of us is given a place and purpose within the Body of Christ that we may play our role in God's liberating and life-giving mission.
- The Body of Christ is a place where the ways we/the world divides us disappear, and each member is required to be their authentic, God-created selves, and they are to be embraced and integrated into the body in their authenticity.
- Each member with their unique gifts is necessary to the functioning of the body. Neither a self-perpetuated sense of un-belonging nor a rejection of difference by another member is based in truth. We are all valued members of the Body of Christ as we are being created to be.
- Those members who have faced rejection/lowliness are to be honored the more and lifted up.
- Ultimately, the Body of Christ is a community of faith without dissension in which people living out their authentic selves become radically interdependent, having equal care for one another, suffering together when one member suffers, and rejoicing together when one member is honored, and where each member brings fully their gifts to the Body of Christ with purpose.
- Each of us equipped by the Spirit to do so, the Body of Christ carries on the mission Christ claimed for himself in Luke, chapter 4: to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Each of us have gifts to contribute to the mission of the Body of Christ and the wellbeing of the Body itself. What do you consider to be your gifts? If you are with a group, what gifts do you notice in others?
- Has there ever been a moment when you felt like you didn't belong in the body, or you felt rejected by the body? What was that experience like?
- Is there a particular moment when you felt like you really belonged in this community of faith? What was that experience like?
- In Luke 4, Jesus recites his mission statement/moral agenda. This is now our mission statement.
 - In what ways do you as an individual participate in living out that purpose?
 - Are there any new ways you can imagine participating?
 - In what ways do you see St Lucas living out that purpose?
 - In what new ways can you imagine St. Lucas living out that purpose?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>