

Small Group Discussion: *Baptism and Belonging*

1. **Community & Church Identity**

The sermon emphasized that one of the most loved parts of SouthRidge is *community*. Why do you think community is so important in a church setting? How have you personally experienced—or struggled to experience—this kind of belonging?

2. **Initiation Moments**

Greg compared baptism to a “welcome to...” moment, like starting a new school or job. Can you share a personal “welcome to...” moment in your life? How does that help you understand baptism as an initiation into following Jesus?

3. **Baptism & New Identity**

Romans 6 teaches that baptism unites us with Christ in both His death and resurrection. What does it mean for your daily life to be “dead to sin but alive to God”? Can you think of an area in your life where you need to live more in your new identity?

4. **Each Belongs to All**

Romans 12:5 says, “Each member belongs to all the others.” In practical terms, what might it look like to treat others in your church as if you truly *belonged* to one another?

5. **Belonging Before Believing**

In the sermon Greg said, “Belonging to Jesus precedes believing in Jesus.” How might this perspective change the way we welcome people into our church community? How can you apply this in your personal relationships with people who don’t yet follow Jesus?

6. **Mutuality in the Church**

The sermon illustrated mutual belonging with clownfish and sea anemones, and with trapeze flyers and catchers. When have you experienced giving and receiving in healthy balance within the church? What steps could you take to both contribute and allow others to support you?

7. **Next Steps in Belonging**

The message ended with a challenge to take a “next step”—whether in baptism, serving, or deeper connection. What might your personal next step be to grow in belonging within your church community? What’s one practical way you can act on that this week?