

## Made for People Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Would you describe yourself as having a lot of friends of varying degrees of closeness, or as having a few close friends?
2. If you were going to be in charge of a Facebook group, what group would you choose?

**Read the following passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

The apostle Paul had a striking vision for the church. He saw a church that crossed every dividing line in the ancient world: ethnicity, gender, class, and geography. On top of this, he saw a church that valued every individual member. Even so, it is easy for us to fall victim to one of two isolating lies: “I don’t belong,” and “I don’t need you.” We were made to connect with other people, and each of us has to resist the idea that we don’t belong and that we don’t need other people.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Discuss the important role others play in each of the following areas of our lives.
  - Identity formation
  - Understanding our purpose
  - Mental health
  - Persevering through difficult or painful experiences
2. When are you most prone to isolate yourself from other people? Explain.
3. Read Hebrews 3:12-13. How can a community keep its members from having “sinful, unbelieving heart[s]?” Do you intentionally encourage the people around you? Do you seek out encouragement when you experience temptation? Explain.
4. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul emphasizes both the unity of the body and the diversity of the body. Why do we need diversity in the body of Christ? What are some roles you can play in the church?
5. Do you think many people in our culture feel like they don’t belong in the church? Have you ever felt that way? What can we do to make the church a place where people feel like they belong?
6. Why was Jesus’s practice of eating meals with others so controversial? Why do you think the practice of eating meals together was so important in the early

church? How might this practice help us in our context?

7. What is one way you would like to grow in your relationships?

**Pray**