

1. “*You’re welcome here*” - Does that feel true for everyone? Share examples of how you/others have been made welcome and felt accepted by our church congregation. If you’re comfortable, share some examples of ways you/your family/friends have not felt fully welcome.

2. Read John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10
 - Notice how many times words like “everyone” and “all” are used. What do these verses tell us about who is welcome in God’s kingdom?
 - Reflecting on the examples used on Sunday, what blindspots have you noticed? What could be our response to noticing them?
 - Do you feel comfortable with this concept or is it challenging?

3. Read Acts 11:1-18

“So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” v17

 - We thought about the idea that one role of the church was to be a place that facilitated access to God and that it was not our role to choose who was eligible to access Him. Do you feel comfortable with this idea or is it challenging?
 - Reflecting on the examples used on Sunday, what examples of intentional exclusion can you think of? What could be our response to noticing them?

4. Can you think of ways we could listen to the views of those who don’t feel included or accepted? What areas of our church life are we best at welcoming people and where could we improve?

5. Do you think we are an inclusive church? How do you feel about this being one of our church values?

Questions about our 6 Church Values:

As we wrestle with our 6 church values (Sacrificial, Worshipping, Missionary/ Missional, Prophetic and Inclusive – with Holy still to come), take the opportunity in the next few weeks, to start to collectively ask ourselves...

- Is this who we are?
- Do we ‘own’ these values as a church and live them out well?
- Are there any values that are obviously missing?
- Could we summarise our values in a sentence or reduce them down to 3 other words?