

week 16

## A Greater Family

Hebrews 8:8-13 ; Acts 1:1-11

**Total Time: 60 minutes (flexible)**

### opening prayer

**Leader Frame (Optional):** This week we move from resurrection to ascension. Jesus didn't just rise—He stayed, restored, and then ascended to reign. This is about seeing what He is doing right now and what that means for us as His people.

**Prayer:** "Jesus, help us see You not as distant, but as present and reigning. Form our hearts, restore our relationship with You, and shape us into the people You've called us to be. Amen."

### highlights & connection

**Purpose:** Move from isolation → desire for belonging → deeper need

#### opening reflection

- Where do you experience belonging right now?
- Where do you still feel disconnected or on the outside?

**Bridge Statement:** We often think belonging comes from finding the right place or people. Scripture shows us belonging begins when something is made new within us.

**Key Reminder:** Belonging is not found—it is formed.

### scripture focus

**Read Aloud:** Hebrews 8:8-13 & Acts 1:3-9

#### Context (Leader Summary)

The old covenant:

- Based on human faithfulness
- External instruction
- Could not transform the heart

The new covenant:

- Based on God's faithfulness
- Internal transformation
- Creates real relationship

Ascension reveals:

- Jesus is reigning
- Jesus is interceding
- Jesus is forming a people

### main discussion focus

#### Key Truth # 1 - The New Covenant Changes the Foundation

- Not "you will"—but "I will"
- God initiates, sustains, and completes

#### Discuss

- Where do you still feel like your relationship with God depends on your performance?

**Key Insight:** If it depends on you, it won't last.

# Jesus *For us everything* EVERYTHING

## Key Truth # 2 - A New Heart Changes Everything

- Not behavior first—identity first
- Transformation from the inside out

### Discuss

- Why do we default to trying to change behavior instead of trusting God to change our heart?

**Key Insight:** Information informs—transformation changes.

## Key Truth # 3 - A Restored Relationship Is Possible

- Sin removed
- Peace established
- Access restored

### Discuss

- What does it mean to you that your sin is not just covered—but remembered no more?

**Key Insight:** You are not working your way back to God—you've been brought near.

## Key Truth # 4 - Ascension Means Jesus Is Reigning

- Not absent
- Not distant
- Actively interceding

### Discuss

- How would your life change if you truly believed Jesus is actively sustaining your relationship with God right now?

**Key Insight:** Ascension is not Jesus leaving—it's Jesus reigning.

## Key Truth # 5 - Jesus Forms a People → A Family

- Not isolated individuals
- A connected people
- A shared identity

### Discuss

- What keeps people from truly experiencing belonging in the church?

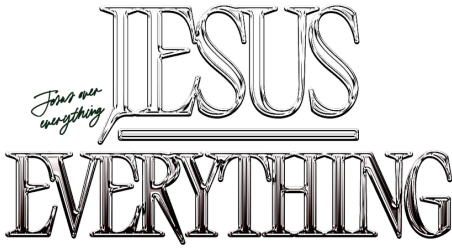
**Key Insight:** You don't just attend—you belong.

## renewal - from isolation to family

### Part A- Where Do You Feel Outside?

#### Discuss:

- Where do you feel disconnected right now?
- Where do you struggle to believe you belong?



## Part B - Living as Family

Because of Jesus:

- You are brought in
- You are known
- You are not alone

Discuss:

- What would it look like to move toward others this week instead of staying isolated?
- Where can you initiate belonging instead of waiting for it?

## missional living - extend the family

Each person answers:

- Who in my life feels like they don't belong?
- How can I intentionally include or invite them this week?

## prayer: belonging and trust

Break into small groups or pairs:

1. **Trust:** "Jesus, help me trust what You've already secured..."
2. **Belonging:** "Remind me that I belong to You..."
3. **Mission:** "Use me to bring others into Your family..."

## final takeaways

- The new covenant is based on God's faithfulness
- A new heart leads to a new relationship
- Ascension means Jesus is reigning now
- Jesus forms a people—not just individuals
- You don't earn belonging—you receive it

## memory verse

"I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts..."  
Hebrews 8:10 (ESV)

## discipleship journey connection

This week is about: Belonging Formation

Encourage:

- Living from identity, not performance
- Trusting Jesus' ongoing work
- Moving toward people, not away
- Embracing life as part of God's family

## final note

Keep this group:

- Relational
- Honest
- Grounded

Help people move from understanding → experience.