

Jump back to the year 2022. NatCon is happening again, and once again I have the opportunity to enjoy another bonjour, this year with the theme “Belonging.” Belonging is something that applies to many lives including my own. In my life I often find myself not looking for meaning, or happiness, but simply for a place that I belong. Maybe where I belong is playing a sport, or being in a certain friend group, or having a particular job.

But this bonjour reminds me that my life is not based around what I’m good at, or what I enjoy, or what makes me money. It’s based on the truth of God’s word. Because I am follower of Christ, I am called to a higher standard. I have been adopted into God’s family, and I now belong in the house of God. I belong wherever I can be closest to my Heavenly Father. I belong in an intimate everyday relationship with Christ. To be a Christian is to have found where you belong, and to chase that destination as hard as you can. Knowing that even when we fall God is there to carry you the rest of the way.

–Brody Morgan

I had the privilege of going through this Bonjour at National Convention when I was 16. I came into that week so caught up in some major distractions from life back home, and didn’t realize how distant I have become to the love and redemption that God is always wanting to offer. While I read through these scriptures, I was met with truths I didn’t know I desperately needed to hear.

Wherever you are in your walk with God, these devotions remind you of who you are to Him, and reading and thinking about these verses allow that to become the most important thing to you once again. All of it reminding you that, in God’s Kingdom, you really do belong. Take time on the questions as you to think deeply about the things going on in life, and allow each scripture to uplift you and remind you of who you are in light of God’s love.

Colossians 1:13-14, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness.”

–Abigail Jordan

BONJOUR

Belonging to God is not just something that identifies us, it’s something that we participate in—a new way of living, a rootedness, and a progression. This is an identity that shapes your state of being. If you are a Christian, you belong to an unshakable hope that changes everything about you: about your life, your purpose, your goals, your future. In Bonjour every day, ask God to help you more deeply understand how your identity as someone who belongs to Him changes everything.

WE BELONG TO GOD

RECOGNIZE

Belonging to God is the most important thing about you. There is assurance, hope, and direction for your life found only in belonging to Jesus – belonging to anything else won't last.

READ + *Exodus 34:6-7*

+ *Isaiah 45:4-7*

+ *Colossians 1:13-17*

+ *John 1:9-13*

+ *1 John 3:1-3*

RESPOND

List other identifiers of your life and your worth. Where are you choosing to find other things more important than God? How does He define your belonging and purpose and value? How does becoming a child of God change your allegiance?

Horizontal lines for writing responses.

If you are a believer, pray and ask the Lord to help you reject all other identifiers and to find your life solely in the work and person of Jesus. If you aren't a believer, pray and ask the Spirit to give you eyes to see your need for Jesus, your Savior.

WE BELONG TO THE WAY

RECOGNIZE

There is a specific way of life that accompanies belonging to God. When we become a child of God, He shows us how to walk through life. Direction for both our biggest decisions and our day-by-day moments are given to us through the Scriptures.

READ + *Joshua 22:5*

+ *Psalms 119:1-10*

+ *1 Peter 2:9-12*

+ *Ephesians 5:1-10*

+ *Colossians 3:5-11*

RESPOND

Where have you followed your own way instead of God's way? What seems hard or confusing about walking in the footsteps of Jesus? What is keeping you from full obedience to God's ways?

Pray and ask the Father to give you a love for His word and His way of life. Confess any sin that you have pursued instead of pursuing obedience.

THURSDAY

WE BELONG TO THE FAMILY

RECOGNIZE

When you belong to God, you belong to His people. Because we are all a part of His family, we care for each other in unique and personal ways. The Christian life isn't something we're meant to do alone.

READ + *Ephesians 2:13-22*

+ *Isaiah 41:8-10*

+ *John 17:20-26*

+ *Romans 12:3-8*

+ *Ephesians 5:15-21*

RESPOND

How can you serve and care for the family of God in your season of life right now? What are ways that you can grow in honesty and accountability with other brothers and sisters around you?

If you are already part of a strong church community, pray and ask the Lord to help you engage deeply and meaningfully in this body He has placed you in. If you aren't, pray and ask the Lord to give you endurance and courage to find a local body to be a part of.

FRIDAY

WE BELONG TO THE PROMISE

RECOGNIZE

The promise of God gives us endurance and hope even in the midst of uncertainty. Even when the way isn't easy or clear, the faithful unfolding of God's plan holds us, guides us, and leads us home.

READ + 1 Kings 8:56-58

+ Psalm 16

+ Psalm 57:1-3

+ 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

+ 1 Peter 5:6-11

+ Psalm 119:49-50

RESPOND

How does hope in the promises of God give us guidance even in the midst of life's hard and difficult circumstances? How can you involve the family of God in situations that are hard to understand?

If you are struggling with sin or are in a hard season, pray and ask the Lord to strengthen you according to His word. If you are conquering sin and walking by the Spirit right now, pray and ask the Lord to fortify you for hard seasons to come.

WE BELONG IN THE KINGDOM

RECOGNIZE

Belonging to God unites us on a mission: to advance the good news of Jesus Christ. We have been welcomed into God's kingdom, and as believers, we now invite others to know God and enjoy Him forever.

READ + *Psalm 145:10-13*

+ *Matthew 5:2-12*

+ *Matthew 28:18-20*

+ *Romans 14:16-19*

+ *Psalm 96*

RESPOND

Who in your life is not walking with Jesus? What does it look like when they don't share your delight in the gospel? How can you invite them into the hope we have in God's kingdom?

Pray and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to tell others about the kingdom of God.