

Session on Chapter 2 of Cherished Belonging

1. Welcome & Opening (10 min)

- Greet everyone warmly.
- Remind people of the ground rules (confidentiality, respect, listening with love).

2. Get-to-Know-You Activity (15 min) – “Act of Kindness”

- Ask participants: "**Share a recent small act of kindness you performed or received. How did it make you feel?**"
- Have them pair up or form small groups to briefly share their experiences.
- After a few minutes, invite a few volunteers to share with the larger group.

3. Opening Prayer (5 min)

Let us begin, In the name of the Father...

Loving Creator, we gather today with open hearts, seeking to understand the depth of cherishing and belonging. Guide our thoughts and discussions as we delve into these themes. May we learn to embody intentional love and commitment in our daily lives. We ask this in your holy name,

Amen.

4. Discussion Questions (30 min) – Based on Chapter Two—The Cruelty Points of *Cherished Belonging*

1. This chapter suggests that the traditional dualism of good and bad may no longer apply; instead, God desires health and well-being for all of God’s children. How does this perspective resonate with you?
2. Boyle states, “*None of us are healed until all of us are healed.*” Ilia Delio describes this as the work of becoming “*wholemakers.*” What steps might you take on your own path toward healing and wholeness?
3. Boyle carefully distinguishes between *describing a situation* and *offering an explanation*, emphasizing that explanations do not serve as excuses. How does this distinction resonate with you?
4. He also explores the concept of original sin. Is he suggesting that original sin is a form of blindness? (p. 41)
5. Boyle argues that people are not necessarily unkind but often distracted. Does this reflect your own experience? How might you reduce distractions to be more present for yourself and others?

6. What are your thoughts on the concept of “*mu*”? (p. 44) Could this approach be useful in navigating difficult conversations?
7. Boyle speaks of “*unshakable goodness*”—the way God sees us. Do you view others as inherently good? Do you see yourself in the same light?
8. He also addresses “*tough love*.” When someone is deeply wounded, tough love may involve calling for help, involving authorities, or setting firm boundaries. Have you ever had to use tough love to support someone’s well-being?
9. How can you work toward restoring wholeness within yourself and in the world around you?

(Encourage openness, active listening, and understanding. Attempt to learn from one another.)

5. Closing Reflection & Prayer (10 min)

- Invite each person to share one takeaway or a word that summarizes what they received today.
- Close with a short prayer of petition and gratitude for the week ahead.

For whom and what shall we pray? (Allow people to state their petitions.)

Loving God of unity, we thank You for the insights gained today on cherishing and intentional love. Empower us to implement these practices in our lives, fostering deeper connections and a stronger sense of belonging within our communities. May our actions reflect Your boundless love. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

6. Next Steps & Goodbyes (5 min)

- Share a preview of the next session, including the chapter(s) you’ll be discussing.
- If you plan to share facilitation, discuss who will lead the next session.
- If refreshments are part of your gatherings, Thank the person who brought the goodies and remind the next volunteer.
- Express gratitude for each person’s presence and participation, and close with a warm thank-you.

Session on Chapter 2 of Cherished Belonging

Handout 2

Opening Prayer

Let us begin, In the name of the Father...

God who cherishes us, we come before you today with open hearts, ready to receive your love and mercy. Thank you for the gift of belonging—to you and to the people around us. Help us to understand what it means to be truly cherished as part of your beloved family. Let this time together deepen our love for you and for one another. We ask this in your holy name, Amen.

Discussion Questions Based on The Cruelty Points of *Cherished Belonging*

1. This chapter suggests that the traditional dualism of good and bad may no longer apply; instead, God desires health and well-being for all of God's children. How does this perspective resonate with you?
2. Boyle states, "*None of us are healed until all of us are healed.*" Ilia Delio describes this as the work of becoming "*wholemakers.*" What steps might you take on your own path toward healing and wholeness?
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9. How can you work toward restoring wholeness within yourself and in the world around you?

Closing Prayer

For whom and what shall we pray? (Allow people to state their petitions.)

*Loving God of unity, thank you for reminding us that we are never alone—that we belong to you and to a community of faith. Help us to carry this truth with us and extend the same love and inclusion to others. May we always reflect your heart for belonging in the way we live, love, welcome and serve. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*