

Session on Chapter 4 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) – “Stories of Belonging”

- Ask participants: *Share a personal story where you felt a profound sense of belonging or a time when you extended that feeling to someone else.*
- 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, open our hearts to the lessons of compassion and kinship. Guide us to see the inherent goodness in ourselves and others and inspire us to build communities rooted in love and understanding. Amen.

4. Discussion Questions (30 min) – Based on Chapter Four—A Tribe to End all Tribalism

1. The chapter begins with a humorous line: “If ‘if’ were a fifth... we’d all be drunk.” We often dwell on “what ifs” in life. How many “ifs” have you lamented over? How have they shaped your perspective on past decisions and regrets?
2. Boyle shares a story of two homies, Adrian and Jamal. Adrian, rather than criticizing Jamal for struggling to share his story, chose instead to encourage and support him. Boyle calls this moment “tender kinship.” Can you recall a time when someone lifted you up in a moment of struggle? Or a time when you did the same for someone else?
3. Boyle quotes an Irish saying: “It is in the shelter of each other that people live.” Who in your life provides you with shelter—whether emotionally, spiritually, or physically? Who do you offer shelter to?
4. Who is your emergency contact? Beyond the practical aspect of this question, what does it say about the relationships and support systems in your life?
5. Boyle introduces the Korean concept of *Jeong* and the Jewish concept of *Mitzvah*—both emphasizing righteous action that fosters lasting kinship and generosity. Have you ever experienced or witnessed an act of righteous action

- that deepened a bond between people? How did it impact you or your community?
6. Boyle writes, “Joy helps our patience ripen into humility, and then we all become a healing presence in a wounded and wounding world.” How can you cultivate and spread joy in your daily life? What impact do you think joy has on healing—both personally and collectively?
 7. Boyle suggests that Homeboy Industries may be asking the right question: “What if we believed that we belonged to each other?” How would our churches, neighborhoods, nations, and world change if we truly lived as though we belonged to one another?

(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.)

Gracious God, we thank You for the insights shared today. As we depart, may we carry forward the spirit of compassion believing we are all from the same tribe, striving to create a world where everyone feels they belong. Empower us to be instruments of your love and peace. 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.

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Handout 4

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Closing Prayer

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