

YOU
BELONG
HERE

LIVING LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Pastor Dave Patterson
YOU BELONG HERE
Part 1: Living Life in Community

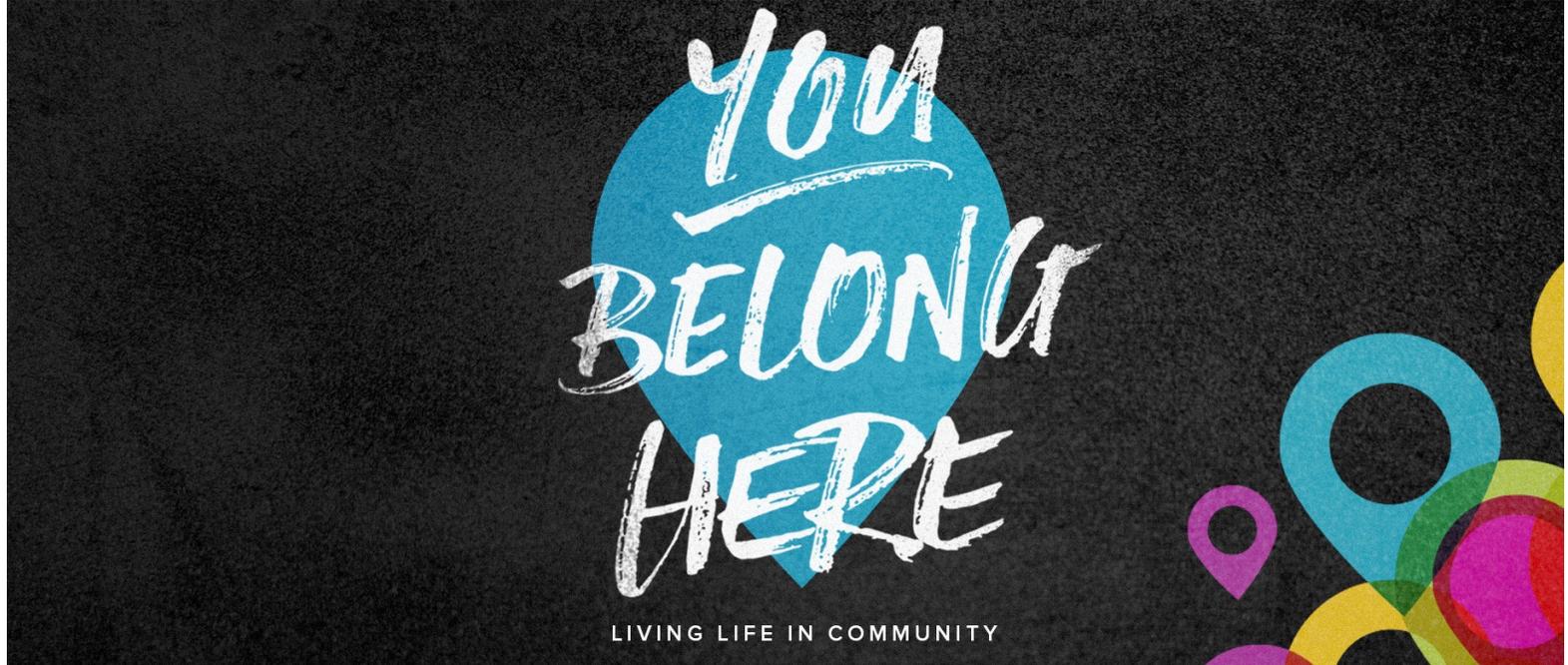
USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

“Human beings can’t help it: we need to belong. One of the most powerful or our survival mechanisms is to be part of a tribe, to contribute to and take from a group of like-minded people...We are drawn to it, we can’t resist the rush of belonging.”—Seth Godin



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[John 16:7, AMP]

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him, the Holy Spirit, and He will be in close fellowship with you.

[Acts 2:1, NLT]

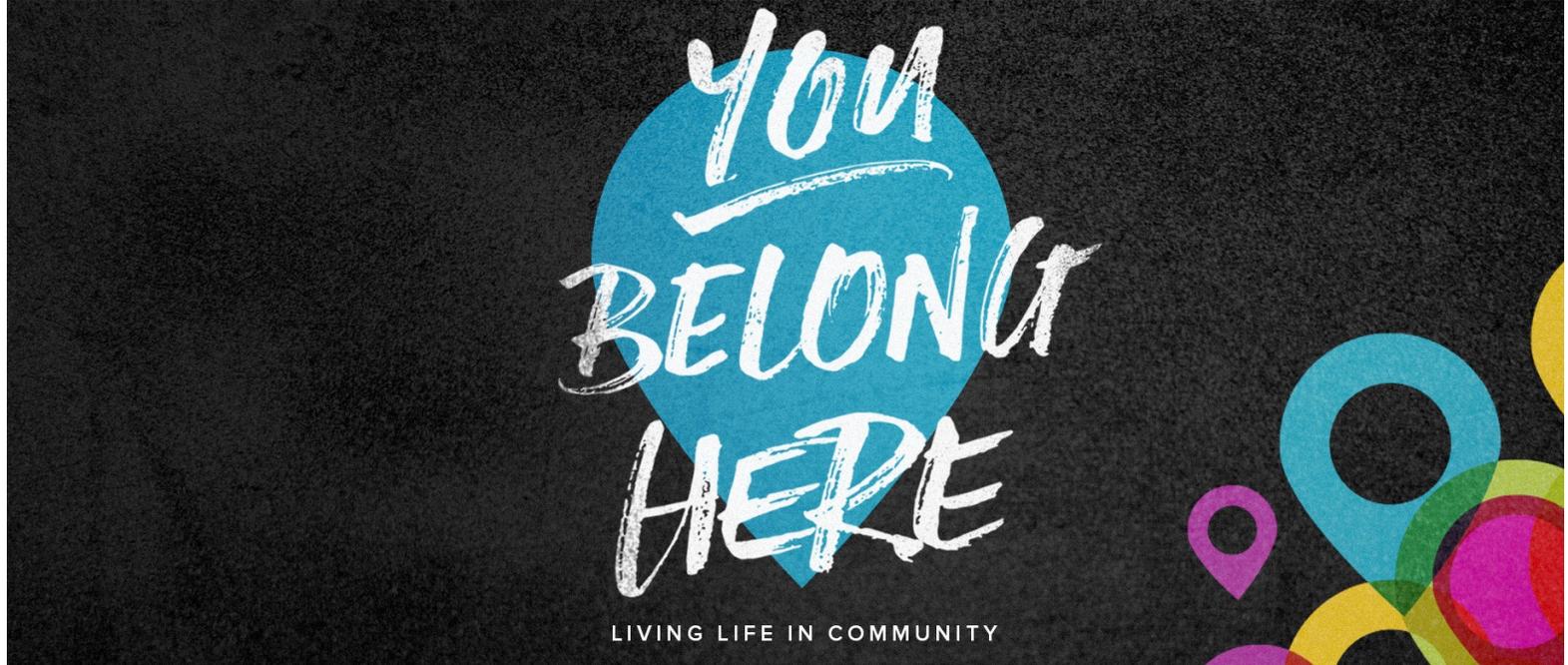
*On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting **together in one place.***

[Acts 2:41-47, AMP]

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to the community, the body of believers. And they **continued steadfastly** (continually and faithfully devoted themselves) to the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Now **all who believed were together**, and shared everything they had. So continuing daily with one accord **in the temple courts**, and breaking bread **from house to house**, they ate their food with great joy and generosity, praising God and having favor with all the people. And each day **the Lord added to their fellowship** those who were being saved.*

[Hebrews 10:25, NLT]

*And **let us not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*



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"It does not end this way for me. I will choose to come out of the cave, live in Community, and seek the destiny and call of God on my life."

- 1. An isolated life produces a loss of perspective; a life in community produces direction and clarity.**
- 2. An isolated life produces selfishness; life in community produces generosity.**

[Proverbs 18:1, NLT]

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all.

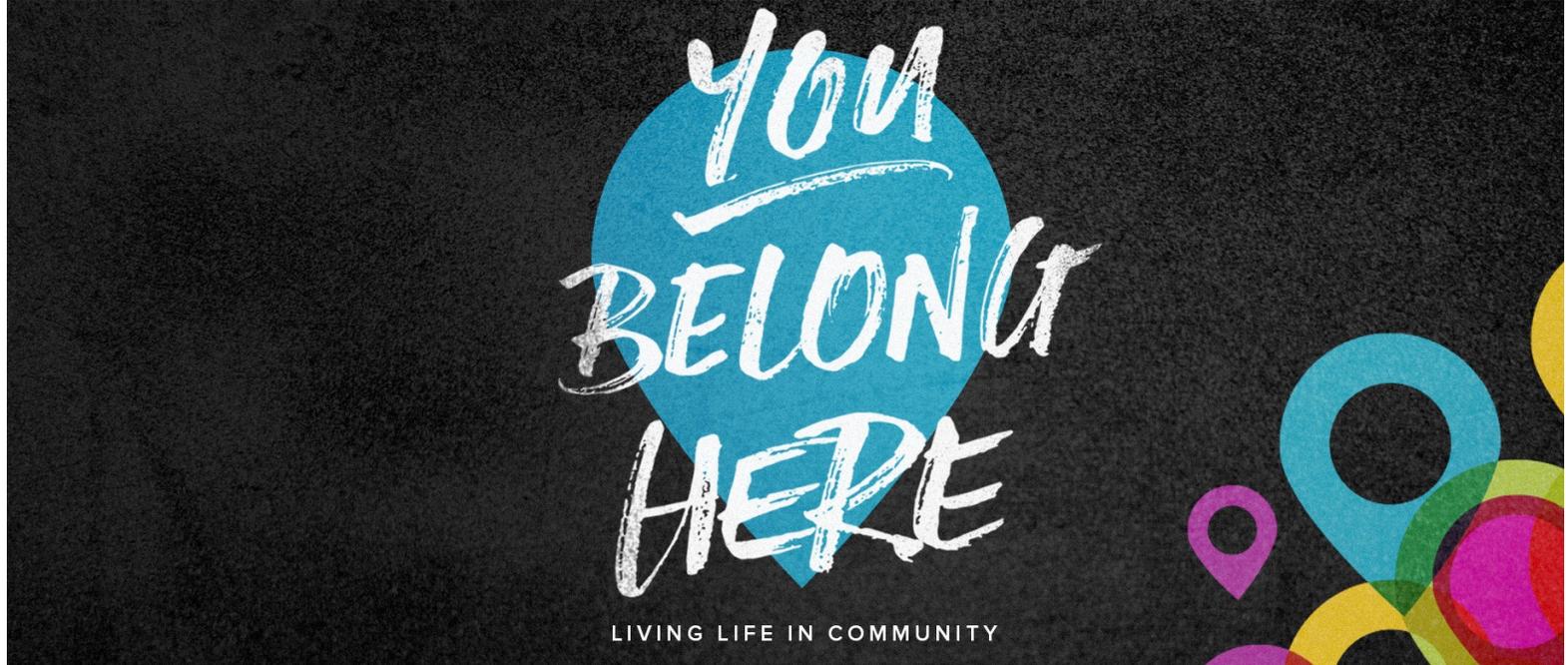
- 3. An isolated life makes you vulnerable to attack; life in community produces safety and protection.**

[1 Peter 5:8, NLT]

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

[Ecclesiastes 4:12, NLT]

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a three-stranded cord is not easily broken.



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4. An isolated life will leave you in the woods; living life in community will bring you back out!

[Isaiah 35:3-4, NLT]

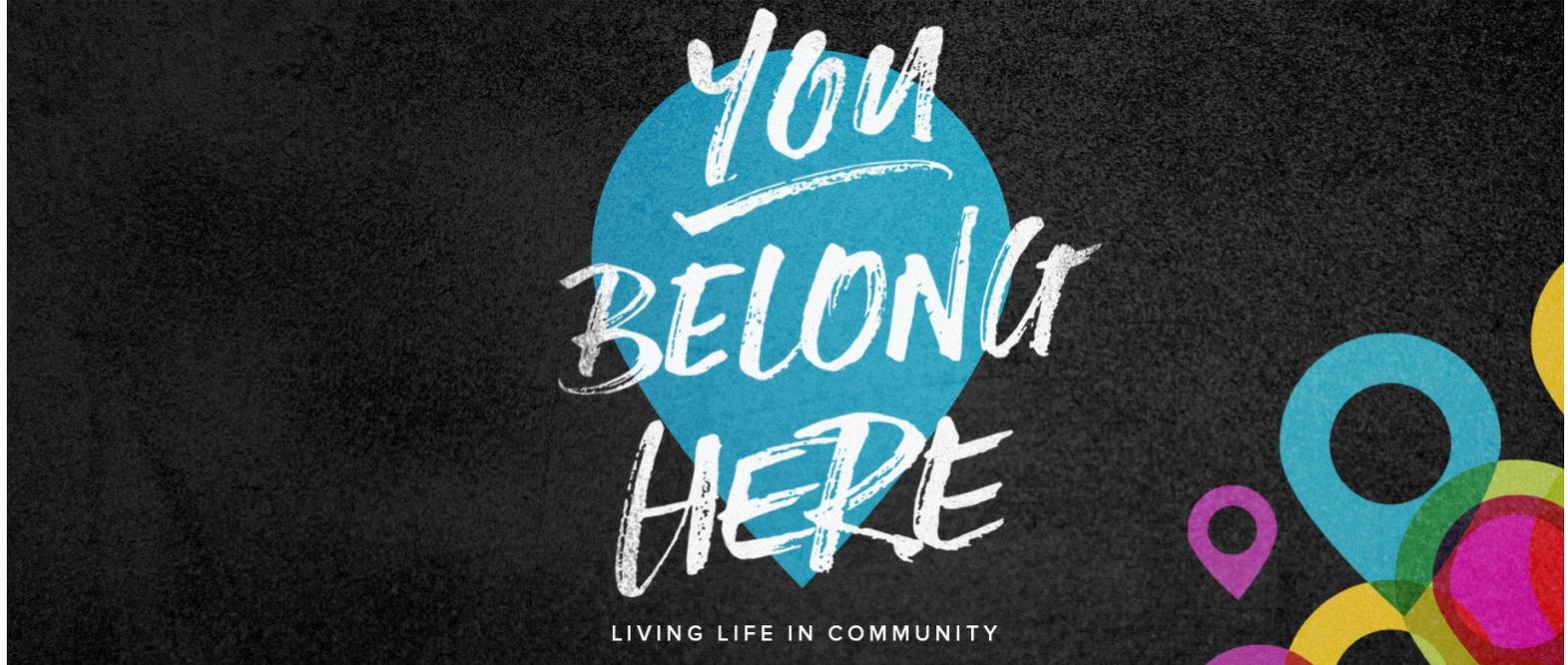
With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.”

[Galatians 6:1, NLT]

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the first groups you identified with when you were in high school? How has that changed, and what groups do you identify with now? What led to any of those group identity changes?
2. What are some dynamics that can only happen in “house to house” ministry that are vital for our spiritual growth? What care have you received and experienced through a smaller community of believers that has changed your life (share your story)?



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3. Four dedications are found in acts 2:42: Teaching, Fellowship, Sharing of Meals, and Prayer. What would you say is the one that is the hardest for you to be consistent in? What are some reasons?
4. Has God rescued you from a place of isolation? What did that look like? How did you come out of that place? How can you be a “Jonathan to a David” for someone stuck in isolation?
5. Do you feel stuck or isolated in your journey now, or do you feel that some part of your life is hanging out in a cave?
6. Is your “rope” strong with three strands, or only one or two? Are you connecting with folks 1-2 times per week that speak wisdom and love into your life? What is the next step that you need to take to go deeper into living a life in community?
7. Right here in your small group, each of you make a list of 3 people who need to return to community. Write it down before you leave.

How can you go out into their woods, their wilderness, and their caves, and call on them and invite them back to community? Pray for them every day this week. Ask God to open up opportunities for you to reach out.