

WHO'S IN?

BELONG



Which box comes first?

GALATIANS 2:11-16

Peter regularly ate with non-Jews until a conservative group of Jews pushing for the old system of law came to town. Fearful that he'd anger that group, Peter distanced himself from the non-Jews. Paul called him out on this hypocrisy of being hard on new non-Jewish Jesus-followers just to make a good impression on his friends from Jerusalem. Paul reminded him that none of this is about making a favorable impression on anyone.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

The law that Paul refers to says that if you believe what we believe, and if you behave the way you're supposed to, then you can belong. But Jesus showed his followers a very different way. He welcomed outsiders into his life. He ate with them, healed them and loved them just as they were. And because he loved them just as they were, they began to believe that God could love them too, and that began to heal them, so that in time they began to behave differently. Paul wants the Church to follow the way of Jesus – loving people just as they are and letting them know that they belong, which begins to change how they live.

What happens when we get these things in the wrong order? What is the danger of demanding the correct behavior or the correct beliefs before we allow someone to belong in our community?



RELATIONSHIP

Are you ever like Peter in this story? Is it easy to include the “outsiders” when no one is around, but harder when the “cool kids” are watching? Why?



PROGRESS

Is your faith community like that sometimes too? Is it easy to talk about loving and including everyone, but harder to actually do it? Why?



RESURRECTION

What changes when we prioritize belonging over beliefs and behavior? In other words, what happens when we include everyone first, regardless of our differences?

FAITH⁵

A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day.

READ the Bible story.

TALK about how the story relates to your highs and lows.

PRAY for one another's highs and lows.

BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org