**Connected: Created to Belong**

**Module 4: Belonging to What?**

**Lesson 1: Belonging to God**

**Spiritual Aims**

Students will hopefully:

* embrace the great value God places on us through the giving of Jesus’ life
* make choices that glorify God

**Lesson Objectives**

Students will:

* learn through scripture that the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians, because Jesus bought us with his life
* identify the opportunity to accept God’s invitation to belong to him

**Materials Needed**

* Blank drawing paper and 3 coloured markers or pencil crayons per student (they can share)
* Chart paper or white board with the following discussion questions written on it:
  + What is your favourite feature about your bedroom?
  + Which would you rather have: A palace where you couldn’t change anything or a small house that you could completely design?
  + What is the most important thing you need for a space to feel like it is yours?
* 3 Post-it Notes per student
* 1 pen or pencil per student
* 4 Bibles bookmarked at 1 Corinthians 6:19–20
* Optional: 4 copies of Appendix A, divided into individual questions
* 1 copy of Appendix B for each student
* Optional: Small prizes for the winning team

**Pre-Lesson Preparation**

* Ensure that discussion questions are written so students will be able to see them when they split up into pairs.

**Minds On** (approx. 15 min.)

Distribute blank paper and markers to your students. Ask them to imagine the coolest bedroom possible and draw a picture to show what it would be like. Encourage them to be creative! They can pick any decor and fill the room with any items they wish.

Give students 5 to 10 minutes to work on their pictures and then invite a few to share what they drew with the group.

**Leader’s note:** As your students present, pay attention to the details they choose to highlight since this shows what means the most to them. If you can reference specific examples later in the lesson, that will help students stay engaged.

Ask students to pair up and discuss the questions that you wrote earlier on chart paper or a white board:

* What is your favourite feature about your actual bedroom?
* Which would you rather have: A palace where you couldn’t change anything or a small house that you could completely design?
* What is the most important thing you need for a space to feel like it is yours?

Have each student write their partners’ answers on Post-it Notes and stick them under the respective questions.

After reviewing some of the posted answers, comment on either how similar or contrasting some reasons are.

**Action** (approx. 25 min.)

**Prompt:** Today we’re going to talk about what it means to belong to God and have the Holy Spirit live in us.

Divide your students into 4 groups by numbering off. Each group will form a team that will co-operate to answer questions for points.

Ask each group 1 of the following questions and allow 15 seconds for them to discuss it as a team and come up with an answer. If they are correct, give them a point. If they are on the right track, you may opt to give a half point and ask the next group to expand on that answer. If they are incorrect, ask the next group. You may repeat questions that have more than 1 good answer.

Keep score on the white board or the chart paper you used in the opening discussion.

Before beginning the questions, ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20. Give each group a bookmarked Bible for reference. Along with asking the question, you may choose to give the corresponding question to them to read as well.

**Leader’s note:** Answers in square brackets are provided as guidelines, but they are not the *only* right answers. Students may surprise you with a fresh perspective, and those insights are just as valuable!

**Questions:**

* What is a temple for? [A temple is a place to worship a god, and it is often treated as the house of that god.]
* Christians do not worship at temples; we call the building we meet in a church. Why don’t we go to a temple to worship God? [If we are Christians, the Holy Spirit lives in us, so we don’t have to go to a temple to worship God; God is already anywhere we are; we ourselves are the temple.]
* The passage says Christians have received the Holy Spirit from God, because we were bought with a price. Do you know what that price was? [It was Jesus’ life.]
* When we buy something in the store, we pay for it, but when God bought us he gave us the choice to belong to him. He paid the price, but it is up to us whether he actually gets to have our lives. How can we let him know our choice? [We can pray to tell him; we can obey his commandments.]

**Prompt:** Think back to your dream room and all the ways you would make it special. What if you took all that creativity and applied it to your life — how could you show that you belong to God?

Give each student a copy of Appendix B. Using the markers from the Minds On activity, tell your students to draw a house that represents their lives. Each room can be a different area of their lives (e.g., school, home, friends, church, sports club, arts class, etc.). If something takes up a lot of time or energy it should have a bigger room, while less important things can be smaller rooms. The house itself doesn’t have to be completely symmetrical, it may even look warped, but the goal is for students to create a visual image of the priorities in their lives. In each room ask your students to write 1 way that they can glorify God in that area.

Give students 5 to 10 minutes to complete this activity independently. Next have them form groups of 2 or 3 people to share their ideas. As a group, have them decide on 1 item to share with the whole group as a way they can glorify God in their lives.

**Consolidate/Debrief** (approx. 5 min.)

Ask each group to share their ideas. As the leader, affirm their desire to glorify God.

**Prompt:** When we talked about our dream rooms, cost was no object. You could have anything you could imagine and you did not have to pay for it. In real life though, Jesus *gave up* his life so that we could belong to God — that means we are so valuable to him! In fact, he loves us so much that he gives us the choice of belonging to him or not. He doesn’t want us to be slaves who HAVE to do what he says; he wants us to be his children, who choose to love and respect and trust him. If we choose to accept him, the Holy Spirit shows that we belong to him, and he helps us obey God and know him better.If you’re ever having a bad day, remember that Jesus gave up his life so that you could belong to God. That means you are really valuable! When you look at the house that represents your life, are you satisfied with the size and shape of the rooms? Does anything need to change? If so what? Let’s take 30 seconds to look at our pictures and think about them, and then choose a partner in your group to share your answer or reflect on it silently by yourself.

Allow for about a minute of silence for students to reflect before closing in prayer.

**Leader’s note:** You may choose to post students’ pictures on your walls or let them take the pictures home as a reminder of the lesson. It would also be good to invite students who want to make a change to speak with you or another leader so you can follow up and support them in articulating those changes and finding some steps they can take.

**Appendix A: 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Discussion**

* What is a temple for?
* Christians do not worship at temples; we call the building we meet in a church. Why don’t we go to a temple to worship God?
* The passage says Christians have received the Holy Spirit from God, because we were bought with a price. Do you know what that price was?
* When we buy something in the store, we pay for it, but when God bought us he gave us the choice to belong to him. He paid the price, but it is up to us whether he actually gets to have our lives. How can we let him know our choice?

**Appendix B**

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NIV):** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;you were bought at a price.Therefore honor God with your bodies.