

**SERMON SERIES:** 52  
**SPEAKER:** Ryan Lingbloom  
**DATE:** March 05, 2023

## Sermon Title:

“How Do You Get Into Jesus’ Inner Circle?”

## Introduction

This past week we asked the question, “how can I recognize God’s call on my life?” We focused on how our obedience to God and His word help us uncover our calling in life. This week we are asking, “how do you get into Jesus’s inner circle?” As we ask this question, our hope is that we can learn what it means to truly be in relationship with Jesus.

- How would you answer a child who says, “that’s not fair”? Have you ever had to have a conversation about that before?

## Seek the Word

- Read Isaiah 49. Look for clues as to how Jesus might have read this chapter in light of his own ministry. If he was to restore Israel, what would be his obligation to the nations?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 2:14, and Colossians 3:11. Rewrite these verses for your community - what groups have been or should be brought together in your local church?

## Go Deeper

This week, spend some time reading about the family of Jesus. Create a family tree including Scripture references. Tools like the free Blue Letter Bible website or a Bible concordance may be helpful.

## Talk About It

- Share about a time when you felt special because you were in someone’s inner circle. What specifically made you feel valued?
- Have you had an experience in church that made you feel like you didn’t belong? What made you feel that way? How did you respond?
- Are we sending messages verbally or nonverbally that could make people feel like they don’t belong in Jesus’s inner circle? What could we do differently to be more open, especially in our smaller groups?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* Our calling is uncovered through obedience to Jesus.

*Challenge:* Find a friend that doesn’t attend any church and ask them, “Hey, can I get your opinion on something? If you ever decided to go to church, what would make you feel like you were welcome there?”