

Belong: Our Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church

Lesson Plans

Dynamic—Participants' lives serve as the main curriculum. The focus should be on group dynamics with a lead learner. The other tools supplement the group's growth.

Session 1: Introduction to Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church

Objectives:

- Build connections with one another by reflecting on shared membership vows in the United Methodist tradition.
- Explore the theological and biblical foundations of membership vows as a covenant with God and the church.

Preparation for Facilitators:

- Review the video content, Foundations booklet ([Our Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church – Foundations](#)), Explore booklet ([Our Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church – Explore](#)), lesson plans, and other materials on membership vows.
- Be ready to share personal reflections or stories related to membership in the church.
- Ensure a welcoming environment for sharing experiences of discipleship.
- Gather index cards, pens, and a bowl or basket

Video Content (5-10 mins):

- *Why Membership?* video

Reading Assignment:

- Leader: Read pages 1-3 in *Our Membership Vows in The United Methodist Church – Foundations*.

Session Outline (90 minutes - adaptable)

Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and open with a prayer.
- Introduce the session's objectives.

Icebreaker Activity: "Vows We Live By" (20 minutes)

- Objective: Foster group bonding and encourage reflection on promises.
- Materials Needed: Index cards, pens, and a bowl or basket.

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Distribute index cards and pens to participants.

- **Step 2:** Ask participants to write a brief response to the prompt: "What is a vow or promise you have made that has significantly impacted your life?"
- **Step 3:** Collect the index cards in a bowl or basket, mix them, and redistribute them.
- **Step 4:** Participants read aloud the card they received and guess who wrote it.
- **Step 5:** Allow the author of the card to share more details if that person is comfortable doing so.

Covenant Agreement (10 minutes)

Use one of the covenants or create your own covenant from "[Courageous Conversations: Sample Guidelines](#)."

Have enough copies of the covenant for each participant. Read and discuss the covenant with the group.

- The covenant should include, at a minimum, confidentiality requirements and expectations for the participants.
- Encourage buy-in from participants by asking for their input.

Facilitator Tip: Encourage buy-in for the covenant by asking participants what else might be needed or included in the covenant.

Video Content (10 minutes):

Watch *Why Membership?* video

Video Reflection (20 minutes)

- What did you learn from the video?
- What questions do you have about the meaning of membership vows?

Activity: Micro-Group Breakout (15 minutes)

- Materials Needed: Index cards, pens, and a bowl or basket.
- Break into small groups of two to three people.
- Ask the groups to write down questions they have about the membership vows and what membership means in The United Methodist Church.
- Post the top two questions from each group on a "parking lot" board for later discussion.

Session 1 Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Summarize key points discussed.
- Encourage participants to reflect on their membership vows during the week.
- Reading assignment: Read pages 1-7 in the Explore booklet.
- Closing Prayer.

Session 2: Membership, Christian Community, and the Bible

Objectives:

- Understand membership vows as they relate to our reading of scripture.
- Explore the connection between membership and *prevenient*, *justifying*, and *sanctifying* grace.

Preparation for Facilitators:

- Review the video content and the readings from the Explore booklet and Foundations booklet.
- Be prepared to discuss passages in the Bible that inform your understanding of church membership.
- Be prepared to discuss a Wesleyan understanding of grace as it relates to church membership.
- Although there are few reflection questions, they are designed to spark conversations for the facilitator to guide more meaningful discussion. Phrases like "say more," "and what else," and "can you expand on that" help participants go deeper in their reflections.

Video Content (10 minutes):

- *Christian Community and the Bible* video

Reading Assignment:

- Leader: Read pages 3-9 in the Explore booklet.

Session Outline (90 minutes - adaptable)

Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and open with a prayer.
- Introduce the session's objectives.

Icebreaker Activity: "Understanding Grace in Membership" (20 minutes)

- Objective: Deepen participants' understanding of grace.
- Materials: Index cards and pens.

Instructions:

- Divide participants into three groups, assigning each group one aspect of grace: *prevenient*, *justifying*, or *sanctifying*.
- Have each group define its assigned aspect of grace in fewer than ten words.
- Discuss how these aspects of grace relate to the journey to becoming a church member, the membership vows, and what happens after people become members in a local church.

Video Content (10 minutes)

Watch the *Christian Community and the Bible* video.

Video Reflection (10 minutes)

- What did you hear that has you wondering or curious?
- What did you learn from the video?

Bible Study and Discussion (25 minutes)

- Invite participants to describe a group in which they felt connected.
- Have a couple of people in the group (preferably those with different Bible translations) read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.
 - In this passage, Paul compares the church to a body. What does this passage teach us about how we should function as members of the church?
 - In verses 21-23, Paul emphasizes that every part of the body is important, even those parts that seem weaker. How does this challenge the way we sometimes think about people's roles or contributions in the church? Can you think of a time when you felt like your contribution to the church wasn't important? How does this passage encourage you to see your role differently?
 - Paul says in verse 26, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it"(CEB). What does this teach us about the relationships between church members?
- Have a couple of people in the group (preferably those with different Bible translations) read Ephesians 4:1-16.
 - Paul says that the whole body (the church) is "joined and held together" by each part. What do you think it means for each of us to be a part of the body? How does this passage challenge us to go beyond attendance to become fully engaged in the life of the church?
- How does being part of the body of Christ shape our understanding of membership? What might church membership look like at its best?

Session 2 Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Recap key points. Baptized Christians are called to be an integral part of the body of Christ. Being a baptized member of a congregation has a high calling.
- Reading assignment: Read pages 7-10 in the Explore booklet.
- Closing Prayer.

Session 3: The Tradition of Membership

Objectives:

- Explore what it means to live out membership vows in everyday discipleship.

- Reflect on how membership connects individuals to the wider body of the church.

Preparation for Facilitators:

- Review the video content and the readings in the Foundations booklet and Explore booklet.
- Prepare discussion questions and reflection activities.

Video Content (10 minutes)

- *Membership in the Body of Christ* video

Reading Assignment:

- Leader: Read pages 10-16 in the Foundations booklet.
- Participants: Read pages 7-10 in the Explore booklet.

Session Outline (90 minutes - adaptable)

Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and open with a prayer.
- Introduce the session's objectives.

Opening Activity: Reflecting on Meaningful Traditions and Membership (20 minutes)

- Objective: This activity helps participants reflect on meaningful traditions they've experienced and connect those practices to how they might live out their church membership vows.
- **Step 1:** Introduce the Activity
 - Begin by explaining that traditions—whether from church, family, or other communities—can deeply shape how we experience belonging and connection.
- **Step 2:** Pair or Small-Group Share
 - **Break participants into pairs or small groups** (depending on the size of your group). If you have more than six to eight people, use smaller groups to encourage intimacy and sharing.
 - In their pairs or groups, ask participants to share the following:
 - What is one meaningful tradition or practice you've been a part of that helped you feel more connected to your faith or to a community? This could be from your church, your family, or any other community you've belonged to.
- **Step 3:** Group Reflection
 - After the small groups have shared, bring everyone back together and ask a few volunteers to share what they heard someone else say during their conversations.
 - Then, ask the group to reflect on the following question:

- "Why do you think being present in church is important for creating a sense of community?"
- "How could being present at church help someone else feel that they belong too?"
- **Step 4: Wrap-Up and Connection to the Lesson**
 - Tie the activities back to today's lesson and emphasize how these traditions help us understand that membership isn't just about belonging—it's about participation, service, and supporting one another as we grow in our faith.

Video Content (10 minutes):

Watch *Membership in the Body of Christ* video.

Video Reflection (10 minutes):

- What did you hear that has you wondering or curious?
- What did you learn from the video?

Activity: Exploring Church Membership Over Time (20 minutes)

- **Objective:** To help participants who are new to Christianity explore what church membership has meant historically and understand how they fit into the ongoing story of the church. (*The following is a generalized view of church history.*)
- **Materials:**
 - A large piece of paper, whiteboard, or digital shared document (e.g., Google Jamboard) to create a visual timeline.
 - Markers or sticky notes (for in-person groups).
 - Short, simple descriptions of key eras in Christian history (early church, medieval church, Reformation, modern church).
 - Bible for relevant passages on church membership.
- **Instructions**
- **Step 1: Introduction**
 - Begin by explaining that church membership has been understood in different ways over the past 2,000 years of Christian history, but the core idea has always been about belonging to a community of believers who have experienced the grace of God. Let participants know this activity will help them see how Christians have practiced membership over time and how that relates to them today.
 - Provide a brief overview of the activity:

"We're going to look at different, broad periods in Christian history and think about how people have understood being part

of the church. Then, we'll talk about what that means for us today."

- **Step 2: Set Up the Timeline**
 - On a whiteboard or large piece of paper, create a **timeline** with four simple time periods:
 - **Early Church (First Century)**: This was the time right after Jesus' resurrection when the first Christian communities formed.
 - **Medieval Church**: This was when the church grew more structured and formal.
 - **Reformation (1500s)**: This period saw major changes in the church, including the start of Protestant churches. Eventually, the Methodist Movement began in England and spread to America (eighteenth century).
 - **Modern Day**: What church membership looks like today.
 - Make sure the timeline is simple with just a few key markers, so participants don't feel overwhelmed.
- **Step 3: Explore Each Time Period**
 - As you move through each time period, share a brief description in easy-to-understand language and connect it to key ideas about church membership. Ask participants what they know about the church in these time periods.
 - **Early Church** (Acts 2:42-47):
 - The first Christians shared everything, prayed together, and helped one another. Being part of the church meant being like a family, where everyone was equal and cared for one another.
 - Ask: "What would it be like to be part of a community where people shared everything and spent lots of time together?"
 - **Medieval Church**:
 - The church became more formal, with leaders (like priests) helping people stay connected to God through formalized liturgy. Being a member often meant participating in these important rituals.
 - Ask: "What do you think about the idea of belonging to a community where leaders help guide the faith of the members?"
 - **Reformation** (Protestant Reformation):
 - There was a movement to make the church more about faith and personal connection with God rather than just following rituals. This is where the Methodist Movement began. Membership started to mean being responsible for your faith and helping others grow.

- Ask: "Why do you think it's important that church membership involves both faith in God and helping others?"
- **Modern Church:**
 - Today, being a member of a church means committing to being part of a group of believers who worship together, serve others, and grow in faith. Churches welcome new people and invite them to participate in ministries that help the community.
 - Ask: "What have noticed about church today that makes you excited about being part of it?"
- **Step 4: Participant Reflection and Engagement**
 - After they have explored the church history timeline, invite participants to reflect on what they've learned by answering these questions:
 - Which time period's idea of membership impressed you the most? Why? What are some positives from each period?
 - Encourage participants to think of simple actions to take that reflect the idea of membership today (e.g., attending worship, helping with a ministry, building friendships in the church, serving on a church team or outreach ministry). Write these ideas on sticky notes or add them to the timeline under the "Modern Day" section as ways to participate.
- **Step 5: Closing Discussion**
 - Bring the discussion back to church membership today. You can use questions to help participants apply what they've learned:
 - Why do you think being part of a church community is important for Christians?
 - Close by encouraging participants to see that church membership is more than attending services—it's about being part of a family of believers who support one another, grow in faith, and serve together.
- **Optional Simplified Variation:**
 - **Timeline Stations:** Set up stations around the room for each time period (early church, medieval church, Reformation, modern day) with simple descriptions or pictures. Have participants walk to each station and reflect on what they imagine being part of the church was like in that time. Afterward, ask them to discuss what stood out to them and how it compares to today.

Session 3 Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Summarize key points and discuss how participants can live out their membership vows this week.

- Encourage participants who are using the workbook to continue using it.
- Reading assignment: Read pages 11-15 in the Explore booklet.
- Closing Prayer.

Session 4: The Liturgy of Membership Vows

Objectives:

- Understand the meaning and purpose of the membership liturgy, recognizing it as a reflection of belief and belonging.
- Reflect on the significance of the words and promises made in the liturgy.

Preparation for Facilitators:

- Review the video content and the assigned readings in the Explore booklet and Foundations booklet.
- Prepare for an interactive reading of the membership liturgy.

Video Content (10-15 minutes):

- *The Invitation of Our Membership Vows* video

Reading Assignment:

- Leader: Read pages 17-26 in the Foundations booklet.
- Participants: Read pages 15-21 in the Explore booklet.

Session Outline (90 minutes - adaptable)

Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and open with a prayer.
- Introduce the session's objectives.

Activity: "Mapping My Membership Journey" (20 minutes)

- **Objective:** To help participants reflect on significant moments in their discipleship journey that led them to consider or commit to church membership, providing context and meaning for the commitments they make as members.
- **Outcome:** By the end of this activity, participants will have a clearer understanding of their discipleship journey leading to membership, which will make their upcoming commitments in the church more personal and meaningful. This activity also creates a sense of shared stories within the group, laying the groundwork for a deeper connection in the next phase of mapping their commitments.

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Introduce the Activity
 - Begin by explaining that everyone's journey to becoming part of the church is unique. This activity is meant to help participants look back on

- key moments that shaped their faith and led them toward church membership.
- Mention that this exercise will prepare them to think about their ongoing role in the church and how they can actively live out their membership.
 - **Step 2:** Set up the journey map. Provide each participant with a blank piece of paper or a **pre-drawn journey map** template. The template should have a winding path with five sections, representing different stages or significant events in their discipleship journey.
 - Label the five sections along the path:
 1. **First Connection** (e.g., first experience with church or faith)
 2. **Awakening** (e.g., a moment of spiritual insight or inspiration)
 3. **Growing Interest** (e.g., participating in Bible study, small group, etc.)
 4. **Decision to Join** (e.g., what led them to consider church membership)
 5. **Membership Today** (e.g., where they are now and how they feel)
 - **Step 3:** Mapping the Journey
 - Invite participants to reflect on each stage of the map and write down or draw symbols that represent significant moments, experiences, or people who impacted them along the way.
 - **First Connection:** When did you first experience church or faith? What was it like?
 - **Awakening:** Was there a moment that made you think more deeply about faith or God?
 - **Growing Interest:** What experiences or people encouraged you to learn more or become more involved?
 - **Decision to Join:** What inspired you to consider becoming a member of this church? Was it a specific person, event, or sermon?
 - **Membership Today:** How do you feel about being on this journey now? What excites or challenges you about being a member?
 - **Step 4:** Sharing in Pairs or Small Groups
 - After participants have completed their maps, ask them to pair up or get into small groups to share a few highlights from their journey.
 - Prompt them with a couple of questions to guide the conversation:
 - "What was one important moment that helped you move closer to the church?"
 - "Who or what has been a strong influence on your journey so far?"
 - **Step 5:** Group Reflection

- After the small-group sharing, bring everyone together and ask for a few volunteers to share brief highlights of their journey with the larger group.
- Use a reflection question to tie to their upcoming commitment as members:
 - "How do these experiences shape how you think about being a member today?"
 - "What part of your journey do you think will help you live out your membership most meaningfully?"
- **Step 6: Wrap-Up and Transition**
 - Conclude by explaining that this journey map provides important insights into why they want to be members and how their past experiences can inspire their commitment going forward.
 - Let them know that this reflection will flow into the next activity, where they will explore ways to live out their membership vows using the "Membership Commitment Map."

Optional Variation (especially for smaller groups – six or fewer):

- **Wall of Journeys:** If your group prefers visual or communal activities, you can have participants add their journey maps to a "Wall of Journeys" (using poster paper or a large board). This allows participants to see everyone's paths, fostering a sense of shared story and community.
- **Guided Questions for Each Section:** For groups that need more structure, you could provide specific reflection prompts for each section of the journey map, such as:
 - **First Connection:** "What did you feel when you first came to church?"
 - **Awakening:** "Was there a Bible story or sermon that changed how you think about faith?"

Video Content (10 minutes)

Watch *The Invitation of Our Membership Vows* video

Video Reflection (10 minutes)

- What did you hear that has you wondering or curious?
- What did you learn from the video?

Activity: Membership Commitment Map (20 minutes)

Objective:

This activity is designed to help participants explore different ways they can live out their membership vows (prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness) by identifying specific actions and commitments they feel drawn to.

Outcome:

By the end of this activity, participants will have a clearer picture of how they can practically live out their membership vows and will begin thinking about their unique role in the church's life in a way that feels accessible and personal.

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Introduce the Activity
 - Explain that being a member of the church involves more than attending—it's about actively participating in the church's life through various commitments, such as praying, showing up, serving, giving, and sharing faith.
 - Let them know that this activity will help them consider how they can live out their membership in the church in ways that match their interests and abilities.
- **Step 2:** Membership Commitment Map
 - Provide each participant with a simple handout (or use a large piece of paper for the group) that looks like a mind map. In the center, write "My Membership Commitments."
 - Around the center, draw five branches that represent the five key areas of membership vows:
 1. **Prayers** (Praying, individually and collectively, for the church and its members)
 2. **Presence** (Being regularly attentive for worship and community activities)
 3. **Gifts** (Sharing financial or other resources)
 4. **Service** (Giving time and talents to help the church or others)
 5. **Witness** (Being a positive example of God's grace, witnessing to God's grace as opportunities arise)
- **Step 3:** Reflection and Brainstorming
 - Ask participants to brainstorm—in small groups or as individuals—specific ways they can live out or already live out each part of their membership commitment. They will write or discuss one or two actions under each category.
 - For example:
 - Under "Prayers," someone might write: "Pray for the church staff each week."
 - Under "Presence," an individual might write: "Commit to attending worship at least twice a month."

- Under "Gifts," a participant could write: "Set up a monthly donation or offer my skills in graphic design."
- Under "Service," someone might write: "Volunteer once a month with the church's community meal program."
- Under "Witness," someone could write: "Invite a friend or neighbor to church next Sunday."
- **Step 4: Group Sharing.** After individuals or small groups have completed their "Membership Commitment Maps," bring the group together to share a few ideas. Ask:
 - "What are some simple ways you feel drawn to pray for or support the church?"
 - "Did anyone come up with a creative way to serve or use their gifts?"
 - Allow a few participants to share examples from their maps if they're comfortable doing so.
- **Step 5: Wrap-Up and Reflection**
 - End the activity by encouraging participants to think of these commitments as ongoing practices. Remind them that they're not expected to do everything at once. The goal is to start living out membership in meaningful and personal ways that fit their situation.
 - Emphasize that being a member means finding ways to contribute that are authentic to who they are. Let them know these can be small steps that may grow over time.

Optional Variation:

If your group prefers more interaction:

- Commitment Stations: Instead of writing everything down, set up five stations around the room, each one representing one of the five membership vows (prayers, Presence, gifts, service, witness). Ask participants to rotate between the stations and discuss with others how they feel they could contribute in each area. After completing the rotations, they can share their commitments with the larger group.

Session 4 Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Encourage participants to reflect on the liturgy during the week.
- Encourage participants who are using the workbook to continue using it.
- Reading assignment: Read pages 22-32 in the Explore booklet.

Session 5: Membership Vows as a Lifelong Call to Discipleship

Objectives:

- Recognize membership vows as the foundation of a lifelong discipleship journey.
- Explore how the vows connect to sanctifying grace and ongoing transformation in the body of Christ.

Preparation for Facilitators:

- Review the video content and the reading assignments in the Foundations booklet and Explore booklet.

Video Content (10-15 mins):

- *Our Membership and Confirmation*
- *Living as Faithful Members*

Reading Assignment:

- Leader: Read pages 22-29 in the Foundations booklet.
- Participants: Read pages 22-32 in the Explore booklet.

Session Outline (90 minutes – adaptable)

Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and open with a prayer
- Briefly introduce the session's objectives.

Video Content (10 minutes)

Watch *Our Membership and Confirmation* video.

Video Reflection (10 minutes)

- What did you hear that has you wondering or curious?
- What did you learn from the video?

Video Content (10 minutes)

Watch *Living as Faithful Members* video.

Video Reflection (10 minutes)

- What did you hear that has you wondering or curious?
- What did you learn from the video?

Final Reflection and Group Discussion (15 minutes)

- In Session Two, we explored 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and the many gifts that make up the church. What gifts or roles do you feel you bring to the church? What gifts or roles do you feel others in this group bring to the church? How can these contribute to the "body" as a whole?

- In Session Two, we also explored Ephesians 4:1-16, where Paul says that the church grows when "each part does its work." What are some ways you can contribute to the growth and health of our church community?

Activity: "Building the Body Together" (25 minutes)

Objective:

To help participants recognize that church membership is not just an individual commitment but a shared journey, where each member plays a vital role in supporting and strengthening the community through collective participation in prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Outcome:

This activity emphasizes that church membership is a collective commitment. Participants will understand that their roles are essential in building the church community, reinforcing the idea that the community is stronger when everyone participates. It fosters a sense of mutual accountability, where each person's efforts contribute to the shared mission of the church.

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Introduce the Activity
 - Begin by explaining that church membership in the United Methodist tradition involves a commitment not only from new members but also from the entire congregation to support one another.
 - Mention that this activity is about discovering how each of us can help build up the church community together, emphasizing that everyone has a part to play in fulfilling the membership vows as a group.
- **Step 2:** Create a "Building Blocks" Structure
 - Use a physical representation to symbolize building the church community. Provide participants with large sticky notes, paper "bricks," or LEGO bricks if available. If in a virtual setting, use a shared digital whiteboard where participants can add digital "blocks."
 - On a board or table, create a basic foundation labeled "Church Community" to signify the base of the structure. Above this foundation, create five areas labeled:
 1. **Prayers**
 2. **Presence**
 3. **Gifts**
 4. **Service**
 5. **Witness**
- **Step 3:** Building the Blocks Together

- Ask participants to think of one specific way the church community can support members in each of the five areas. Emphasize that last week was about individual commitments, but this week is about how the church community joins together in living out our membership vows. Participants should write their ideas on the sticky notes or paper "bricks." Or they may choose a LEGO brick to represent their idea. Encourage them to focus on practical, communal actions rather than individual efforts.
- Examples could include:
 - **Prayers:** "Hold a monthly prayer meeting for church members' needs."
 - **Presence:** "Organize rides to church for those who need transportation."
 - **Gifts:** "Create a community fund for members facing financial hardship."
 - **Service:** "Form a team to help with yard work or home repairs for elderly members."
 - **Witness:** "Host a 'Bring a Friend to Church' Sunday with lunch afterward."
- **Step 4: Build the Community Structure**
 - Invite participants to come forward one by one (or take turns online) and place their blocks in the appropriate area on the structure. As they place their blocks, ask them to share their idea briefly with the group.
 - As each block is added, it visually represents how everyone's contribution helps build a stronger church community.
- **Step 5: Group Reflection**
 - Once the structure is complete, help participants reflect on what they've built together:
 1. "How does this activity show that we all have a role in strengthening the church?"
 2. "What are some ways we can make these ideas a reality as a community?"
 3. "Why is it important that everyone participates in these commitments, not just the new members?"
- **Step 6: Reaffirming the Community Covenant (5 minutes)**
 - Invite the group to stand in a circle around the completed structure (or face the digital whiteboard together if online) and read this community affirmation together:
 - "As members of this congregation, we commit to building each other up in prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We recognize that each

of us has a role in creating a strong and loving church, where all are supported, and God is glorified."

- **Closing Blessing or Prayer** (2-3 minutes):
 - Conclude with a short prayer asking for God's guidance and strength as the community works together to fulfill their collective commitments:
"God of love, we ask for your help as we seek to build a stronger community together. May each of us contribute to the growth of this church, supporting one another in love, and may we be a witness to your grace in all we do. Amen."

Reflection

- How do membership vows continue to shape your discipleship journey?
- What commitments will you carry forward?

Closing Ceremony: Reaffirming the Membership Vows (10 minutes)

As we prepare to read the membership liturgy together, let's remember that these words represent our shared discipleship commitment as a community. This liturgy not only reaffirms the promises made by new members but also invites all of us to renew our vows to support one another through **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**. Let's read it together as an expression of our unity in Christ and dedication to this church family.

Read pages 13-17 together, with one person reading the regular print and everyone else reading the bold print.

Commented [cac1]: Pages in what booklet?

Commented [cac2]: Pages in what? Our Membership Vows?

Optional Closing:

Ending the final session with a shared meal is a fitting conclusion, as it reflects the Christian values of fellowship and belonging. Sharing in a meal reinforces the idea that members are part of a supportive, caring body of Christ. It's a practical way to live out the vows of **presence** and **witness**, celebrating the journey together.

Final Wrap-Up:

- Summarize the key takeaways from the five sessions.
- Emphasize the ongoing nature of discipleship rooted in membership vows.
- Close with a prayer.