

Belonging

KWL Digital Enrichment Resource

First Edition: January 2018

Teacher Introduction

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Appendix (content unpacked)



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Teacher Introduction

1. Teacher Notes

The ten elements of this Belonging Enrichment Resource are specifically crafted for the Year 7 students at the beginning of a new year. It enriches the Year 7 Chapter 8 section on School and Church Communities in To Know, Worship and Love Secondary.

For first term in year 7 with a gathering of new students, and some of whom are not from the Catholic Tradition, this enrichment resource is intended to complement an introduction to the rituals and traditions of a School.

Human persons are generally, in varying degrees connected, to a wide variety of groups and communities. The selection of these 10 elements is intended to clarify these broad associations somewhat.

The text is necessarily cryptic and not an exclusive coverage of each element since they are meant as a point of departure for class discussion and reflection.

2. Pedagogical Considerations:

We are conscious that each school in year 7 has its own curriculum, liturgies and assemblies, which welcomes new students to the tradition, rituals and style of the college. These ten elements are intended to mesh with the college initiation patterns for a new group.

These ten themes have, in some schools, been taken as a basis for the first ten weeks of the school year. The connections of these elements to the life of Jesus might be expanded to include the appropriation of these themes to each student or staff member. Some schools are employing a journaling section for each element.

3. Bibliography:

Most of these ten elements can be found in the index of The Catholic Catechism.

The element of belonging to the Church is taken from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, p. 24.

The 'creation as stardust' concept is taken from Denis Edwards text The God of Evolution. Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium calls for Christians to proclaim the good news to all creation, p. 181.

The "inner drive to fuller consciousness" is taken from Avery Dulles concept in his Models of Revelation, p. 98.

The element of belonging to the future is derived from the Second Vatican Council document, Lumen Gentium, p. 48. It also references Pope Benedict XVI's ENCICLICAL LETTER Deus Caritas Est. p. 217.

The concept of belonging to service is derived from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, p. 187.



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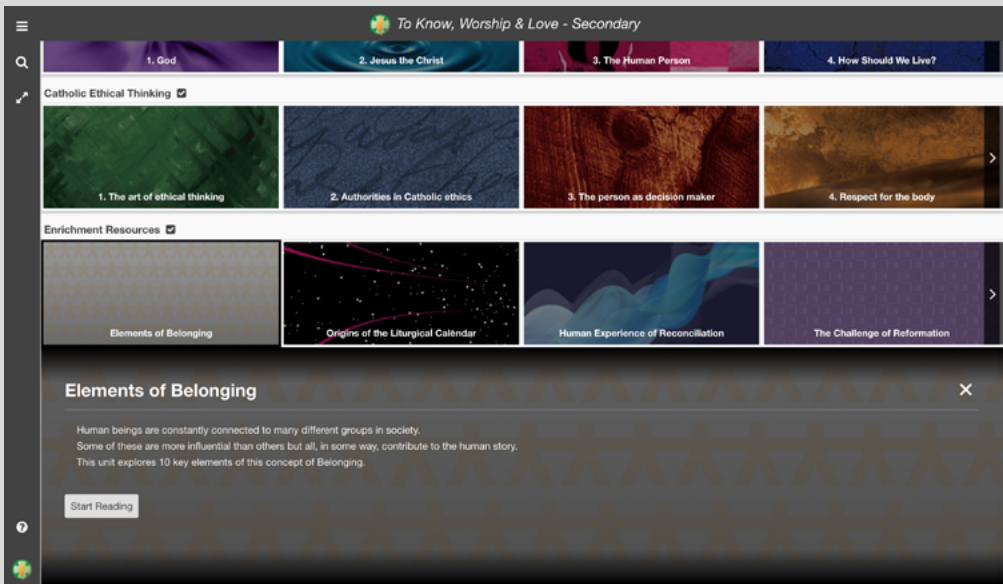
To Know, Worship & Love

Enrichment Resource: Belonging

Instructions and Examples

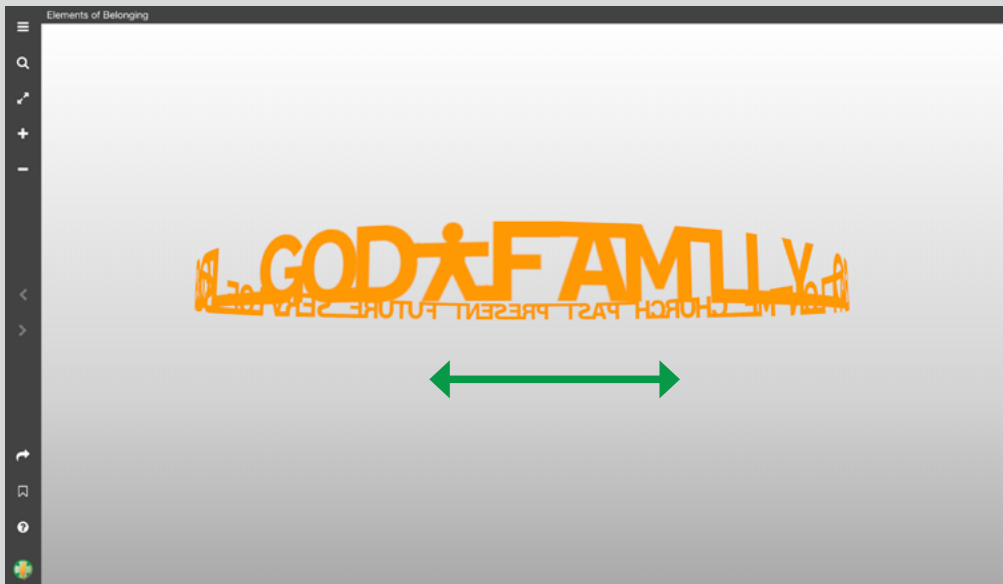
1. Navigation: Link Locations

The resource can be accessed via the KWL Home Page,

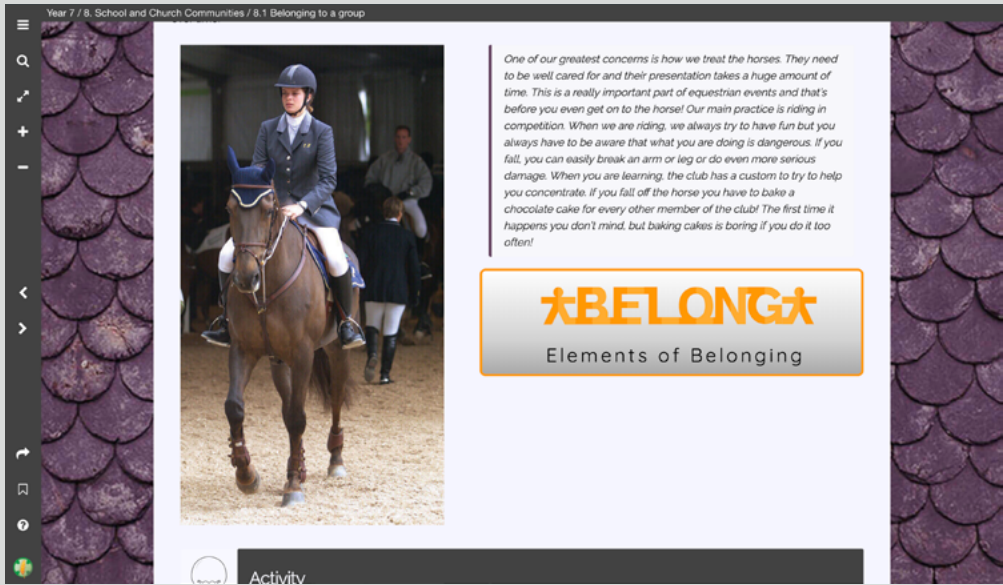


2. Navigation: Within the Resource

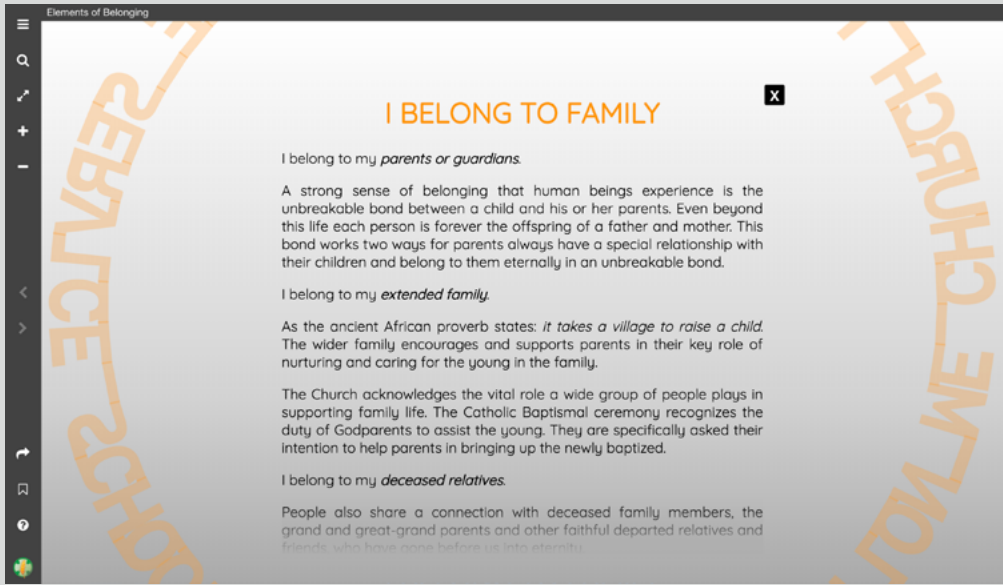
Swipe or scroll the words to rotate. Select a topic e.g. Family.



Year 7, 8.1 Belonging to a Group.



Content can be scrolled vertically and closed to return to the menu.



Enrichment Resource: Belonging

Appendix (content unpacked).

10 Elements of BELONGING

WE BELONG TO GOD

WE BELONG TO CREATION

WE BELONG TO OUR SCHOOL

WE BELONG TO CHURCH

WE BELONG TO SERVICE

WE BELONG TO THE FUTURE

I BELONG TO ME

I BELONG TO FAMILY

I BELONG TO THE PAST

I BELONG TO THE PRESENT

WE BELONG TO GOD

We belong to God who created the world and everything in it. God is not distant and removed from my existence, like the force in Star Wars, but a personal God. In the Bible we learn that our God is eternal, all knowing and all-powerful. We belong to the Trinity first and foremost, to this loving God who made us, who forgives us and restores us to new life.

WE BELONG TO THE TRINITY

Our God is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus taught his followers that they could call God 'Father'. We belong to the Father who created us.

We belong to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who revealed the Father's love to us by his life, death and resurrection.

We belong to the Holy Spirit, the Lord of life and love, who sanctifies the world.

WE BELONG TO GOD'S STORY OF SALVATION

The narrative of God saving humankind is a story to which we belong; it is our story, our history.

The history of *salvation*, from the Latin 'making safe' or 'rescuing', describes a liberation of people from suffering or evil. God took the initiative and saved humanity in the events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

The deliverance of God's people from Egypt and from their exile in Babylon showed the God of Israel to be a redeemer.

In the death and resurrection of Christ the Father delivered humankind from the power of sin and evil. We belong to that saving event.

We belong to this loving history of salvation, changing human hearts and bringing new friendship with God. As redeemed people we share in a continuous story from creation to the end of time; a story which finds its centre in Christ, the still point of the moving world.

WE BELONG TO GOD'S MISSION FOR THE WORLD

We are called to share in God's transformative mission to the world.

This task was motivated by Christ and lived by Christ.

Jesus belonged to God, to Abba, His Father

The relationship Jesus enjoyed with the Father was special. He rested in the heart of his Father, saw Him face-to-face, enjoyed immediate contact and was in constant dialogue with him.

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, was always 'turned towards' the Father.

I BELONG TO ME

As a human person made in God's image and likeness, I belong to the **dignity** that God has given me. I am, in my own way, open to the infinite, open to God.

My soul is the spiritual principle of my life. My spirit, residing deep within my being, is more than something to which I belong; it is the core of my being, at my deepest level.

My body, my **physical attributes**, height and build, hair and eye colour present me to the world; they are an important part of who I am. These attributes of mine are all gifts given me by God in my body.

As a person I have a yearning for life, an '**inner drive** for fuller consciousness'. There is energy in me that propels me forward, that makes me strive to learn new things and develop new ideas.

As a person I possess **talents and skills**. Some of these are inherited from my ancestors and others I have developed with some assistance. Secondary school is a time to explore my natural



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talents and craft new skills. An authentic person enjoys God's gifts every day.

As a human being I am, in some real way, connected to a human history of **sin and alienation**, to my own story of **struggle and sadness**. The failures in my life are mine. Though I have made mistakes in my life I am loved by others and especially loved by a forgiving God who calls me to a new life. God is a Shepherd who leads me through the *valley of darkness* to the *banquet he has prepared*. Psalm 23

Pope Francis To Young People

Don't let people rob you of your hope.

Don't let people rob you of your future.

You are special; You are precious in God's eyes.

Pope Francis Interview With Journalists.

Sept 10, 2017

I BELONG TO MY FAMILY

I belong to my **parents or guardians**.

A strong sense of belonging that human beings experience is the unbreakable bond between a child and his or her parents. Even beyond this life each person is forever the offspring of a father and mother. This bond works two ways for parents always have a special relationship with their children and belong to them eternally in an unbreakable bond.

I belong to my **extended family**.

As the ancient African proverb states: *it takes a village to raise a child*. The wider family encourages and supports parents in their key role of nurturing and caring for the young in the family.

The Church acknowledges the vital role a wide group of people plays in supporting family life. The Catholic Baptismal ceremony recognizes the duty of Godparents to assist the young. They are specifically asked their intention to help parents in bringing up the newly baptized.

I belong to my **deceased relatives**.

People also share a connection with deceased family members, the grand and great-grand parents and other faithful departed relatives and friends, who have gone before us into eternity.

The sacrifices made in past decades often gave this current generation a certain freedom of opportunity. Through the legacy of this gift we belong to those people.

Jesus belonged to his Family

Jesus, in Nazareth, lived a secluded life for many years in the simplicity of family routine and religious rituals. In his public ministry he was well aware of his family connections and was known as the carpenter's son. Jesus shared the joys and the challenges of family relationships.

Both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke include genealogies of Jesus' ancestors.

I BELONG TO THE PAST

I am connected to the 13.7 billion-year story of the cosmos. I am made of the stardust that formed the universe.

I belong to the past; the history of the world is part of my identity.

The story of Australia with its ancient indigenous origins, European settlement, gold rush, wars, immigrant arrivals and growth of cities are all elements of an Australian past I share in some way.

My family's story in Australia, the early days in this land and region is something to which I belong.

I hear, in stories of people from the past, how I should live in the sight of God. The Bible informs me of a rich past that can direct me today and guide my future steps.

Jesus Belonged To The Past

Jesus was ever aware of the rich heritage his Jewish ancestors gave him. He studied the great Jewish texts: the Torah, the Prophets and Psalms. At the age of twelve he is found in the temple discussing the texts.

He treasured the past and interpreted the great teachings for his audience.

WE BELONG TO CREATION

The entire creation is good since God brought it into existence and constantly maintains it.



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The act of creating the universe is not merely something God has done; it is something that God is continually doing.

I belong to this amazing creation God made; a world created for God's glory.

I belong to this land Australia, called the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

I belong to Australian mountain ranges and valleys, rivers and reefs, the special animals and birds, the desert plains and river gums.

The sounds of the kookaburras, the hopping of the kangaroo, the fragrance of the eucalypt and the stars of the Southern Cross are distinctive elements of Australia to which I belong.

I belong to the place where I live: the suburb, town, farm or street is the home in which I live.

I belong to the ongoing story of humankind and share a responsibility to respect and care for the life of this planet and for everyone I meet.

Jesus belonged to Creation

The life and mission of Jesus is filled with stories of him travelling land and sea. The vineyards, fields and farms, the villages and homes were places Jesus loved. He was a person absorbed by the Father's creation. His parables speak of the close connection he had with all of creation, with birds and animals and his special love of God's greatest work: human kind.

WE BELONG TO THE CHURCH

We belong to the Mystery of the Church, the 'working' **Body of Christ**.

Through Baptism we belong to the community of the Church, God's abiding presence among men and women, the community founded by Jesus Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Church is filled with the **gifts of the Holy Spirit**; we share in these gifts.

In belonging to the Church we are part of the **People of God**. We belong to the mission of the Church to proclaim to all peoples the kingdom of Christ and of God.

We belong to the **Prayer of the Church**. The *Our Father* has a special place in our prayer.

We belong to Mary, the Mother of God and **Mother of the Church**. The *Hail Mary* has a special place in our prayer.

We belong to the **Creed and the Teachings of the Church**.

World Youth Day gathers hundreds of thousands of young people together to celebrate their strong association with the Catholic Church. We are connected to these young people demonstrating their faith.

We belong to the Pope, Bishops, Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers who serve Christ in the Church.

In the church we share a spiritual communion with Christians who have gone before us 'with

the sign of faith'. The **Communion of Saints** are not only often great examples for our lives but they continue to pray to God for us.

We belong to Jesus

Jesus chose twelve apostles and their successors filled with the Holy Spirit - Popes, Bishops, Priests and Deacons - to lead his Church.

This group was at the heart of the new 'gathering' that was initiated with Christ's death, resurrection, ascension and with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

He gave Mary his mother to the Church from the cross.

WE BELONG TO OUR SCHOOL

We belong to the **routine and rituals**, symbols and structure of my school. Our adolescent years are indelibly marked by the style, the values and opportunities that Catholic schooling gives us.

When we join a new school we are immediately linked to all people who currently attend the college: students, staff, administrative and maintenance personnel.

From our first classes in a new school we already contribute to the ongoing story of our college.

In the years we spend at a school campus we contribute to **a continuing story**; we share in making our College's new identity.

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This belonging includes accepting the school 'style,' the rules, supporting key ritual and patterns as well as fostering new ventures.

The gift of a Catholic education is a great privilege that will help forge my future.

Jesus was a model teacher

Jesus was in constant dialogue with the source of his life, his Father in heaven.

He knew the teachings of the Jewish faith very well. He forged a new identity for his followers and educated them in the message of the Kingdom of God.

He combined a life of care and concern for the needy with a courageously defiant attitude towards those who disregarded the poor.

WE BELONG TO SERVICE

Sharing a special dignity we belong to humanity and this bond calls us to care for others.

John Donne, in 1624, famously wrote that *no man is an island entire of itself*. We live in community and exist in the realm of other human beings.

The story of infancy is one of total dependence upon others. Unlike the animal kingdom the human being demands years of care and attention to survive the early stages.

This task of serving younger members of our family extends throughout life to include other people in times of sickness and suffering. Tending the elderly is another important service to which we belong.

The Bible's constant refrain is one of service: to respond to those in need. We don't just wait for the poor to present themselves; we should anticipate their needs. Leviticus 25:35-55

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount outlines our charitable response to the marginalized regardless of their colour or creed, political allegiance or social status.

Jesus modelled for us a life of service.

We belong to service. In our school, neighbourhood and suburb we are called to care for others. When humanitarian disasters assault some countries we belong to the caring response. We belong to International agencies like Caritas, which takes our contributions and cares for the suffering.

Jesus belonged to service

The Gospels record Jesus' immediate response to anyone in need. His healing stories speak of the speedy reaction Jesus offered anyone in need. His Last Supper gesture of washing the disciples feet is the apogee of his lesson in service. John 13:1-20.

WE BELONG TO THE FUTURE

We are people who **look to the future**, and not merely tomorrow or a term holiday.

We anticipate senior years of our secondary schooling and to new opportunities beyond this phase.

Our future is more than guessing; we belong to an active engagement in bringing about our future: belonging to the future **shapes what we**

do today. Forging our future is, however, a slow process; ideas mature gradually. "We should let them grow, let them shape themselves without due haste. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming in you will be."

Christians assert that life on earth is more than we can see. They believe in the 'eternal directedness' of our entire existence: Human beings are destined for a **final resurrection**. The fullness of human life is found in God's everlasting reign, which incorporates the attributes of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace.

Belonging to life on earth we have a **responsibility** to those who follow us. The future citizens of our planet will be affected by our current use of resources and by the imprint we leave on soil, sea and air.

Since we belong to both **an immediate and a final future** and we are called to explore the 'itinerary of the future' every day.

Jesus announced the Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is both 'already' occurring and 'not yet' achieved.

The future is to be found in the eternal qualities of God's reign: "truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace." *Preface of Christ the King*

We live the future 'already' by appropriating these qualities to our lives today.



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I BELONG TO THE PRESENT

Concentrate, stop daydreaming!

This charge is a call to be present to this moment or this event.

Preparing for a performance, training for a sporting event or studying for an exam might be called 'rehearsing being present.' The concentration on the text, the skill or the issue demands our attention to the present, not only at school, but also in life: I am called to be present to the **now**.

A person who 'belongs to the moment' recognizes and deals with distractions.

The Second Vatican Council suggests that a person needs 'full, conscious and active participation' in order to pray well. These three categories are also true of life:

having your senses fully engaged,

being conscious of what you are doing, and

actively involved in life

is how you belong to the present moment.

Great Christian writers assert that the present is where you find yourself and find God.

The Bible cites the stories of individuals coming to awareness of themselves and God's presence in their lives. For some, this awareness came as a flash of light, for others a gentle breeze outside a cave, for others it was a chance meeting with Christ on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus belonged to the Present, the Now moment.

A key insight Jesus offered his followers was the **importance of now**. Unlike some Old Testament prophets focussing on a future event, Jesus emphasised the immediate moment: the **sacrament of now**. He knew and taught that the Father was present and active in this era, in this place, in this classroom.



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