

# Belonging

Baptism in the Family of God



**Leader's Guide**

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# Belonging

## C H E C K L I S T

*Belonging* consists of three parts: **parish preparation, the study event, and the follow-up.** As part of the *Belonging* experience, it is essential that your study is set up online and that parents are registered online so that they can receive the welcome video before the class and the follow-up videos after the class.

### Part 1: Parish Preparation

#### Preparing for the Online Experience

- Preview the orientation videos provided at AscensionPress.com/Belonging or on the DVD.
  - Informational Video
  - Leader's Training Video
  - Staff Training Video
- Set up your *Belonging* study at AscensionPress.com. (See "How to Set Up a *Belonging* Study" on page 6.)
- Choose how you would like to handle online registrations. (See "How to Register Participants" on page 7.)
- Verify parents have registered at AscensionPress.com and will have a Parent's Guide\* in hand for the class.

\* The Parent's Guide is essential for every family participating in *Belonging*.  
Couples can either share a Parent's Guide or they can each have their own.

#### Preparing for the Study Event

- Have any parish staff who may be interacting with baptism parents watch the "Staff Training" video (available at AscensionPress.com/Belonging or on the DVD).
- Decide on the format (classroom, home, etc.) and the number of sessions (see outlines for one or two sessions on pages 3-4). For smaller groups, we highly recommend a couple hosting the parents at their home for dinner.
- Wherever the class is being held, create a warm, friendly environment and plan to offer refreshments.
- If held at the parish, be sure to use the nicest room available and consider using tablecloths, lamps, flowers, etc.

## Preparing the Parents

- Welcome parents and begin establishing relationships with the first encounter, when they inquire about baptizing their child.
- Explain to parents the following:
  - They will be attending one (or two) baptism preparation sessions, and the process is designed to be fun and engaging.
  - As part of their preparation, they will be watching a series of videos during the class. After the class, they will be emailed a series of follow-up videos.
  - Parents must register at AscensionPress.com. As part of their registration, they will also receive a Parent's Guide, which they will have an opportunity to use both during the class and afterward.
- Visit AscensionPress.com/Belonging to download the free PDF "How Parents Register Online," which can be given to parents.
- Remind parents to view the godparents video and send the link to the godparents. The link is provided in their welcome email, or they can visit AscensionPress.com/Godparents.

## Preparing the Facilitators

- Choose facilitators who match the F.A.C.T. description outlined in the training video (Faithful, Available, Contagious, Teachable).\*
- Have each facilitator watch the "Leader's Training" video (available at AscensionPress.com/Belonging or on the DVD).
- Be sure to register yourself and any facilitators who will be running the study using one of the online registration options on pages 7-10.
- *Belonging* facilitators should review the program videos and the Parent's Guide. This guide is essential to the *Belonging* experience and is integrated with both the class and the follow-up videos.

\* Thanks to FOCUS, the Catholic campus ministry that uses this acronym and has popularized this approach.

## Part 2: The Study Event

These outlines are suggested times for the video and discussion portion of the program. We recommend starting the event with additional informal time for gathering and conversation, including refreshments, in order to establish a comfortable and open environment and to foster relationships. Discussion questions for each video segment can be found in the Parent's Guide.

### TWO-SESSION FORMAT

SESSION ONE (90 minutes)		
Step	Time	Notes
Informal Gathering and Conversation	8 minutes	<i>Consider expanding the amount of informal time if possible.</i>
Welcome and Opening Prayer	2 minutes	<i>Consider a short, simple opening prayer (e.g., a facilitator thanking God for the time together and then joining in a Hail Mary).</i>
Segment One - "What's in a Name?"	Video: 7:28 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	This powerful video examines the beauty and meaning behind a name.
Segment Two - Real Relationship	Video: 9:16 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	God wants a real relationship with us, and that relationship comes with real rights and real responsibilities.
Segment Three - Liar, Lunatic, or Lord	Video: 11:32 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Fr. Mike explains a fascinating and compelling argument known as the "Trilema," and how Jesus truly is who he says he is.
Segment Four - Child of God	Video: 12:46 minutes Discussion and Wrap-Up: 10 minutes	Through baptism, we are reborn and transformed from creatures of God into children of God.

SESSION TWO (90 minutes)		
Step	Time	Notes
Informal Gathering and Conversation	5 minutes	<i>Consider expanding the amount of informal time if possible.</i>
Welcome and Opening Prayer	2 minutes	<i>Consider a short, simple opening prayer.</i>
Segment Five - Real Change	Video: 19:02 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Fr. Mike explains the transformative power of the sacrament of baptism and how we are changed from the inside out.
Segment Six - Your Family	Video: 13:22 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Depending on our personal experiences, the word "family" can bring many different images to mind. Fr. Mike explores what it means to belong in the family of God.
Rite of Baptism	Video: 23:20 minutes Discussion and Wrap-Up: 8 minutes	The Rite of Baptism and the meaning behind its signs and symbols are explained.

## ONE-SESSION FORMAT

(approximately 3 hours total)

PART ONE (approximately 1½ hours)		
Step	Time	Notes
Informal Gathering and Conversation	5 minutes	Consider expanding the amount of informal time if possible.
Welcome and Opening Prayer	2 minutes	Consider a short, simple opening prayer (e.g., a facilitator thanking God for the time together and then joining in a Hail Mary).
Segment One – “What’s in a Name?”	Video: 7:28 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	This powerful video examines the beauty and meaning behind a name.
Segment Two – Real Relationship	Video: 9:16 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	God wants a real relationship with us, and that relationship comes with real rights and real responsibilities.
Segment Three – Liar, Lunatic, or Lord	Video: 11:32 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Fr. Mike explains a fascinating and compelling argument known as the “Trilemma,” and how Jesus truly is who he says he is.
Segment Four – Child of God	Video: 12:46 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Through baptism, we are reborn and transformed from creatures of God into children of God.
5 - MINUTE BREAK		
PART TWO (approximately 1½ hours)		
Step	Time	Notes
Segment Five – Real Change	Video: 19:02 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Fr. Mike explains the transformative power of the sacrament of baptism and how we are changed from the inside out.
Segment Six – Your Family	Video: 13:22 minutes Discussion: 10 minutes	Depending on our personal experiences, the word “family” can bring many different images to mind. Fr. Mike explores what it means to belong in the family of God.
Rite of Baptism	Video: 23:20 minutes Discussion and Wrap-Up: 10 minutes	The Rite of Baptism and the meaning behind its signs and symbols are explained.

## Part 3: The Follow-Up

- Shortly after their child's baptism, parents will begin receiving short videos (approximately 5 minutes each) emailed to them every Sunday for ten weeks.
- These follow-up videos are meant to encourage parents to consider and reflect on various themes involving their relationship with their spouse, their child, God, and the Church.
- The Parent's Guide follows along with these videos and offers a reflection and a thought-provoking question for each day, along with some space to write down their thoughts.
- Encourage parents to engage with the follow-up videos and the Parent's Guide.
- Suggest that they could aim to write just one thing down each day, creating a tangible treasure of this important time in their child's life.
- Encourage facilitators and all who are involved with the baptism to maintain relationships with the parents after the class.

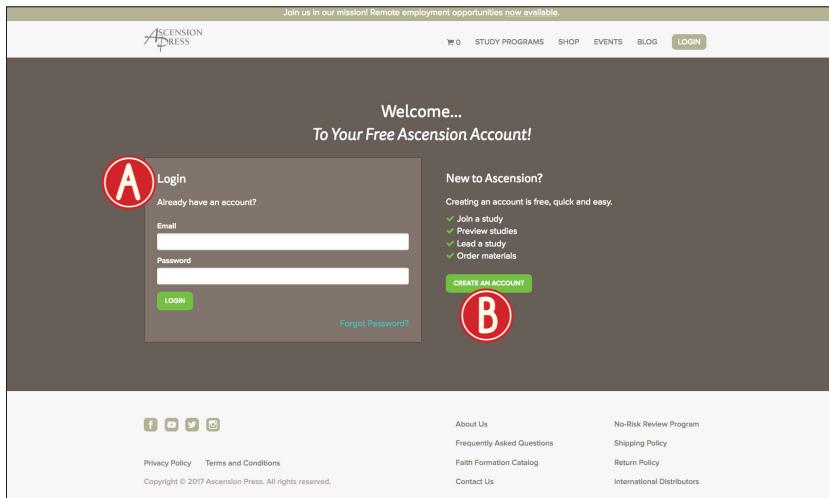
## How **Belonging** Studies Work at AscensionPress.com

- Once your study at AscensionPress.com is created, it will have no expiration date and will remain available for as long as your online account is active.
- The study videos will be viewable once you have four or more registrations and will remain viewable for all future registered participants.
- To get started, you may want to purchase your first four registrations (which includes four Parent's Guides) even if your first study may not use all four. You can always use any additional registrations and Parent's Guides for future registrants.
- Once your study is created and you have reached the four-registration threshold, you can continue to register parents as needed throughout the year (e.g., study events can run with many couples or as few as just one couple.)

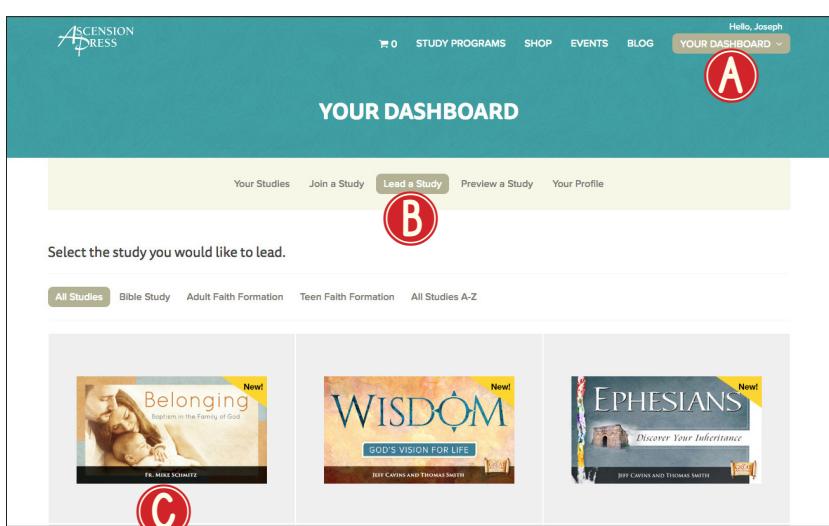
For questions or more information, please contact us  
at [Support@AscensionPress.com](mailto:Support@AscensionPress.com) or call 1-800-376-0520.

# How to Set Up a **Belonging** Study at AscensionPress.com

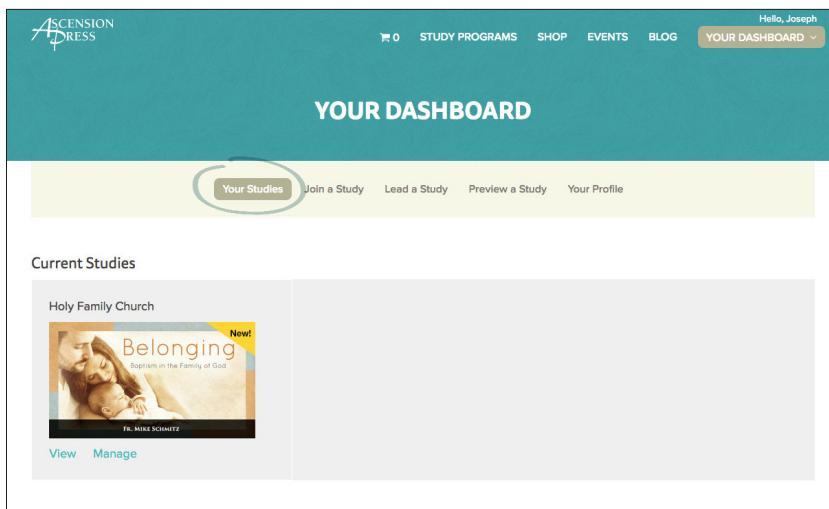
- 1 Visit AscensionPress.com and **A** log in or **B** create a free account.



- 2 Once logged in,  
**A** go to your dashboard,  
**B** click “Lead a Study,” and  
**C** select *Belonging*.



- 3 Enter your parish and group information.
- 4 Once your study is created, it will have no expiration date and will remain available in your dashboard within the “Your Studies” tab for as long as your account is active.



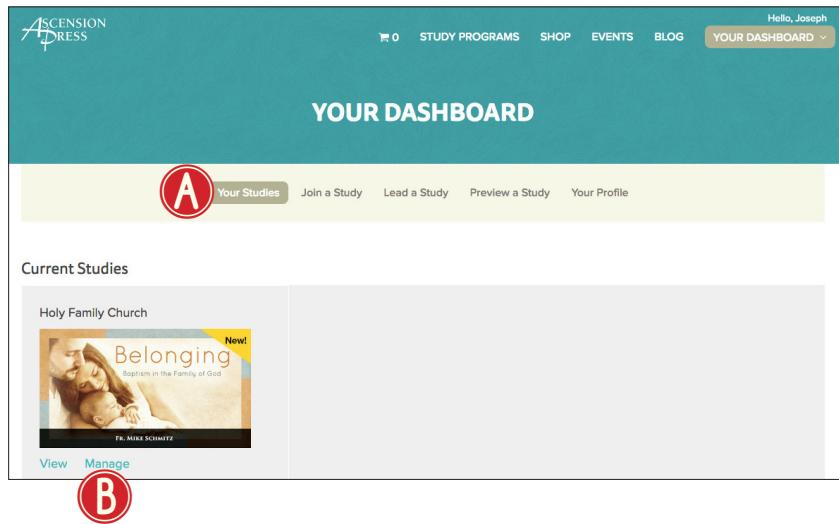
# How to Register Participants at AscensionPress.com

There are two easy ways for participants to register:

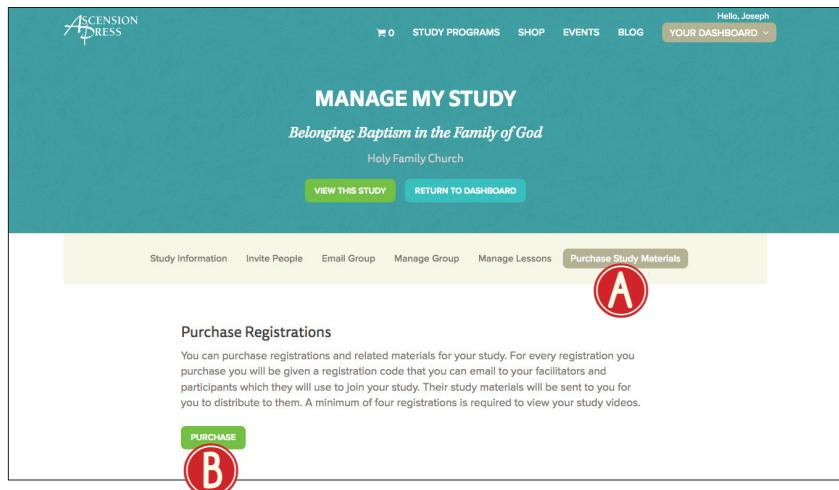
## 1 Leader Pays for Registration

After you have set up the *Belonging* study in your dashboard, you can purchase materials and registrations for your participants. You will be sent the Parent's Guides, which you can distribute to participants.

- A Go to the “Your Studies” tab on your dashboard and B click “Manage” under the *Belonging* icon.



- A Select the “Purchase Study Materials” tab, then B click the “Purchase” button.



After your purchase is complete, you can enter your participants' email addresses, and they will be sent an email with a link to access the study.

- A Click "Manage Group" then B click "Redeem Registrations."

**MANAGE MY STUDY**  
*Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God*  
 Holy Family Church

[VIEW THIS STUDY](#) [RETURN TO DASHBOARD](#)

Study Information Invite People Email Group **A Manage Group** Manage Lessons Purchase Study Materials

**Registered Participants**

[DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION](#) **B REDEEM REGISTRATIONS** [What's this?](#)

Below is a list of the people registered for your study

Name	Email	Status	Created	Remove	<a href="#">What's this?</a>
Joseph Lee	email@ascensionpress.com	Registered	June 7, 2017	Leader	

- A Enter your participants' email addresses and B click "Submit."

**MANAGE MY STUDY**  
*Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God*  
 Holy Family Church

[VIEW THIS STUDY](#) [RETURN TO DASHBOARD](#)

Study Information Invite People Email Group **A Manage Group** Manage Lessons Purchase Study Materials

**Redeem Registrations**  
 Redemptions Available: 10 Redemption Code: Y5SNM7

**C**  
 Enter the emails for the participants you would like to register for your study on separate lines or separated by commas

**A**

**B**

**SUBMIT** **CANCEL**

Note: If you do not have the parents' email addresses, you will also receive a redemption code C you can give to them. They can then visit AscensionPress.com, click on "Join a Study," and enter the redemption code.

## Another easy way to register:

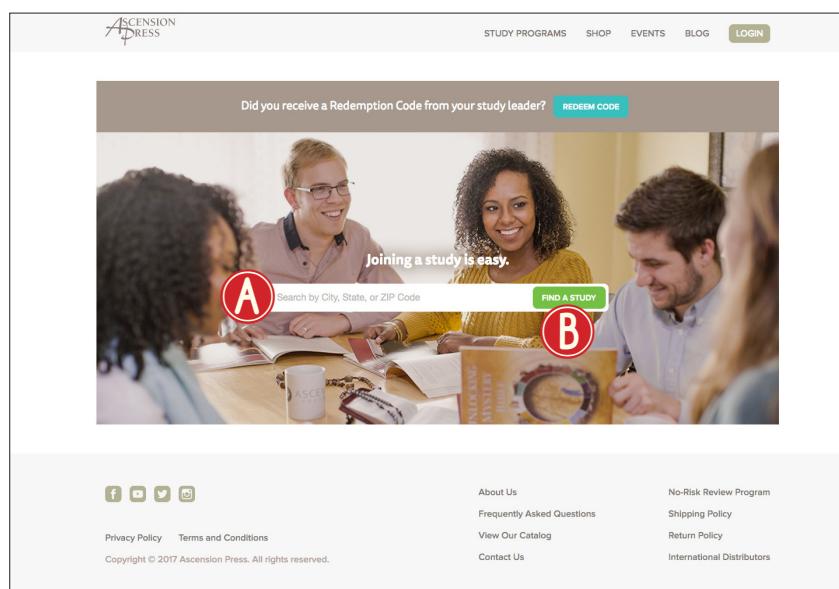
### 2 Participants Pay for Registration

You can ask your participants to pay for their own registration at AscensionPress.com and have the Parent's Guide mailed directly to their home.

- Direct participants to visit AscensionPress.com and **A** click "Join a Study."



- Direct participants to **A** enter a city, state, or zip code in the search field, and **B** click on "Find a Study."



- Under the “Study Locations” list, direct participants to **A** click on your parish name, and then **B** click “More Information” in the pop-up box.

The screenshot shows the Ascension Press website's study location page. At the top, there is a search bar with the number '19401'. Below it, a section titled 'Study Locations' lists eight church names with their distances from the search point. A red circle labeled 'A' highlights the 'Holy Family Church' entry. To the right, a map of the area around Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, shows the location of the 'Holy Family Church'. A red circle labeled 'B' highlights a 'MORE INFORMATION' button on the map's info window. The map also shows various roads and nearby towns like Boyertown, Pottstown, and New Hope. At the bottom of the page, there are social media links and navigation links for About Us, FAQ, Catalog, Contact Us, and more.

- Direct participants to **A** click “Login & Register.” This will allow them to log in if they already have an account or create a free account. They can then register and pay for their study.

The screenshot shows the Ascension Press website's study registration page for the 'Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God' program. At the top, there is a teal header with the Ascension Press logo and navigation links for Study Programs, Shop, Events, Blog, and Login. Below the header, the title 'STUDY REGISTRATION' is displayed, followed by the program name 'Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God' and the location 'Holy Family Church'. A large image of a man holding a baby is shown with the text 'Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God' and 'OFFICIAL TRAILER'. A red circle labeled 'A' highlights the 'LOGIN & REGISTER' button at the bottom of the page. To the right, sections for 'About the Program' and 'Registration Includes' are listed. The 'About the Program' section describes the Belonging program as designed to provide parents with an incredible encounter with Jesus and the Church. The 'Registration Includes' section lists three items: online access to study videos and discussion forum, the workbook shipped to the participant, and a free download of Jeff Cavins' How to Simplify Your Life (Mp3). At the very bottom, there is a link to 'Login to contact the Study Leader.'

# Belonging

Baptism in the Family of God

The *Belonging* program is designed to provide parents with an incredible encounter with Jesus and with the Church. *Belonging* seeks to prepare parents to have their children baptized and to win over their hearts at this important time in their lives. Parents will learn what it means to be children of God and that in the Church, they will always have a place where they belong.

Through radical hospitality, free-flowing conversation, and a well-thought-out follow-up plan, *Belonging* seeks to change our very approach to baptismal preparation.



[AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com)