



If you are still standing against the fence, fingers clutching the metal rings, hoping against hope that today just maybe you might get picked, I'm here to tell you – *you have been added*. You're on the team. You're on the roll. You've been picked. The "less thans." The "missing outs." Welcome to the assembly of the *wanted*. The added. That includes you.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breakers:

- (1) How does it feel to be "added" to a team or a club?
- (2) Have you ever been "added" to a list you didn't know you were on?
- (3) What responsibilities come from being "added" to a team?

PECULIAR. Growing up, was there anything odd or strange about you, compared to others? How did you handle it? How did others handle it? **Follow up:** Read **1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)**. What comes to your mind when you read the word "peculiar"? Compare translations and discuss what this verse is intended to teach. In other words, how are we "peculiar"? **Additional:** Read **1 Cor. 1:26**. How is this verse especially comforting to those of us who consider ourselves to be peculiar?

BELONG. Read **Romans 1:6; Acts 9:2; 12:1**. Discuss what it means to belong to Christ and to belong to the church.

ADDED, NOT JOINED. Read **Acts 2:41, 47 & 5:14**. "Added" is a passive word, reflecting something done to us or for us. Nathan said, "*God picks his team. You didn't join the church. God called you into it. He added you to it.*" Discuss the difference and what these texts are teaching us.

PART OF THE PUZZLE. Read **Romans 12:5**. Paul uses a variety of images to describe how every person in the community is wanted, needed, and plays an important role. He speaks of a body with its parts. We could also say you are a player on God's team, or you are an ingredient in God's secret sauce. Share how being added to the community not only buries our envious pride; it also carried an enormous responsibility. **Follow up:** If you are a part of the body, which part are you, and why?

ADDED THE SAME WAY AS OTHERS. Read **Acts 2:37-41 & Galatians 3:26-28**. Who has been added to the community of God's people? The same process that makes one a Christian adds them to the community. How can we draw the circle too wide? How can we draw the circle too narrow? **Follow up 1:** When you accepted Jesus in faith and baptism, what were you asked to believe and declare? Why not more? **Follow up 2:** Read **Acts 15:8; Romans 15:7**. Discuss the Restoration Movement slogan, "*We are Christians only, but not the only Christians.*"