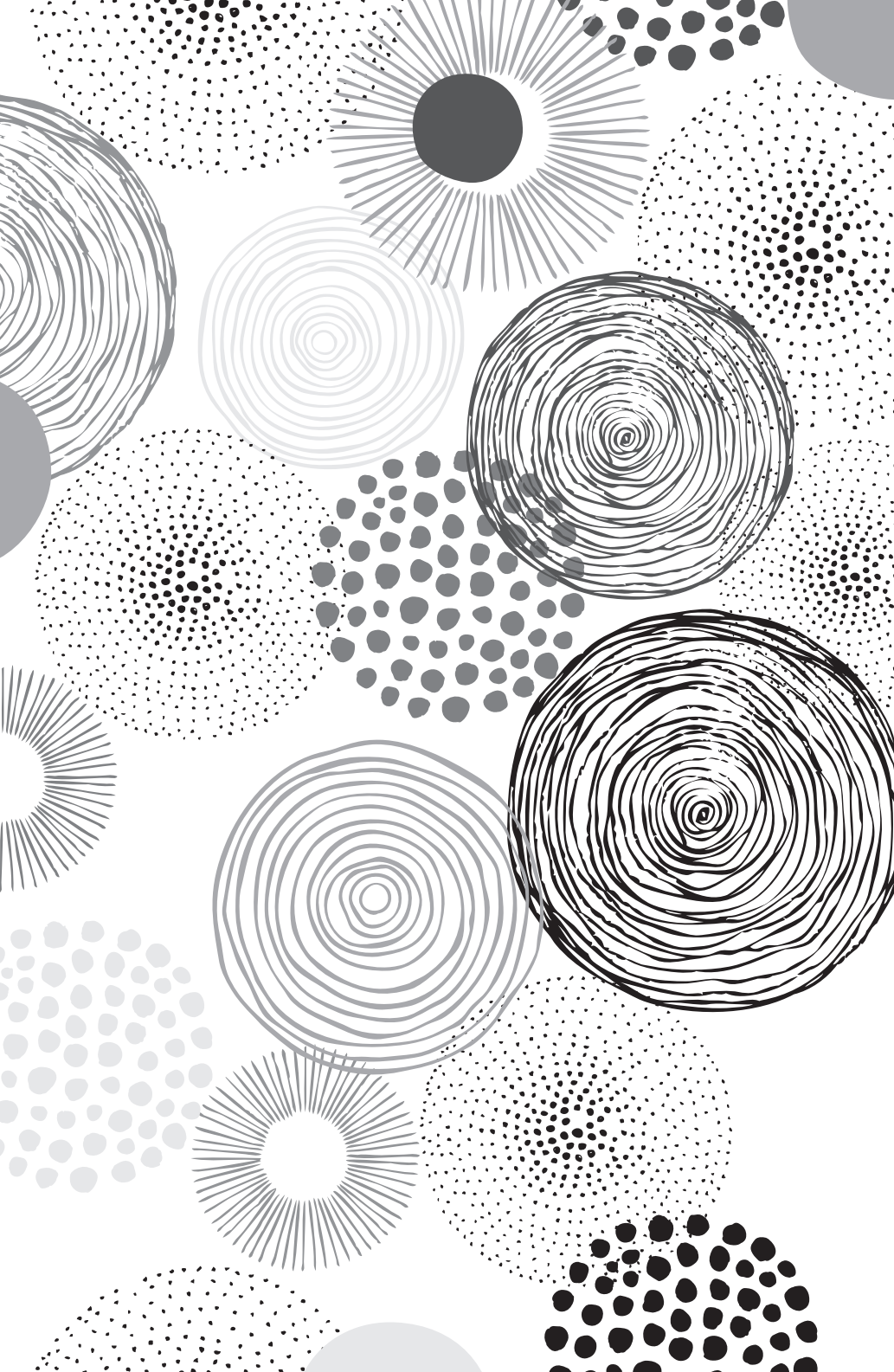
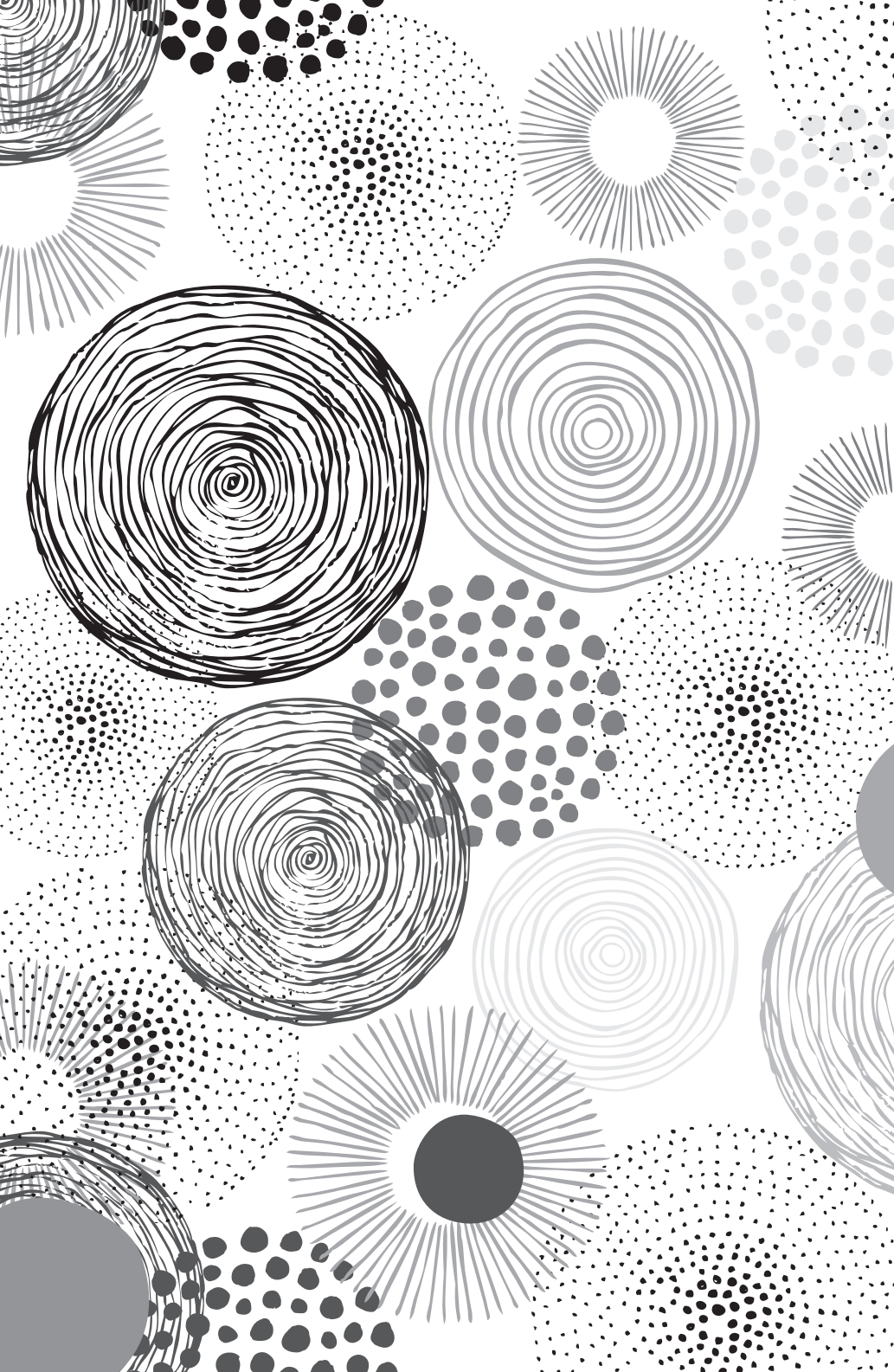




# BELONGING









# BELONGING

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# INTRODUCTION

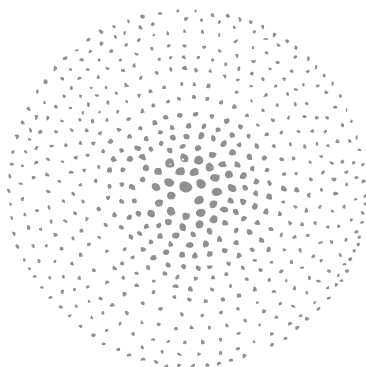
## *BELONGING.*

According to the dictionary, the word *belonging* means “happiness felt in a secure relationship.” Our “belongings” also mean “personal items that one owns; possessions” as in “your personal *belongings* or those special things you treasure.”

But maybe the most meaningful definition is this one: “an affinity, especially in the phrase *a sense of belonging*.” We weren’t made to do life alone. Even the most solitary person is still a member of society (and belongs to the human race).

As you fill these pages, you might consider all the places *you* feel a sense of belonging, including the people who belong with you and the longings you may carry. You may also want to think about *where* you belong. You’ll find quotes and verses scattered throughout to encourage and inspire you along the way. For more inspiration to help you get your journaling juices flowing, check out the list of “Thought Starters” on the following page. Hopefully, long before you fill in the last page, you’ll have a new appreciation for how good it is to belong . . .

And that you do.









## THOUGHT STARTERS: WHERE DO YOU BELONG?

*What groups or organizations do you belong to? Is there something new you've considered doing or joining but haven't yet? What steps might you take to begin moving toward being part of a new group?*

*List the people in your family (remember: family doesn't always mean people related to you).*

*Take a mental or physical tour of your home to remind yourself of your belongings. How are they meaningful to you? Why?*

*If you have pets, how does your relationship with them affect your idea of what it means to belong?*

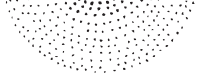
*Do you belong, officially or not, to any fan groups (for example: sports teams, TV shows, book clubs)? If so, how do they enrich your life?*

*Do you often carry something with you that has a special meaning? What is it, and why does it mean so much to you?*

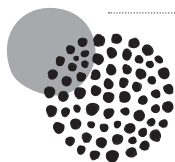
*Do you have a sense that God cares for you? Consider Jesus' words: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends" (Revelation 3:20). What does this verse tell you about how God wants to relate to you and how he interacts with those who belong to him?*

*What longings do you have that are yet to be fulfilled? Write about them here.*

*As you think of your current situation in life, do you feel you're where you belong? If not, where do you want to be, or what do you want to be doing differently? What steps can you take to get where you believe you're meant to be?*



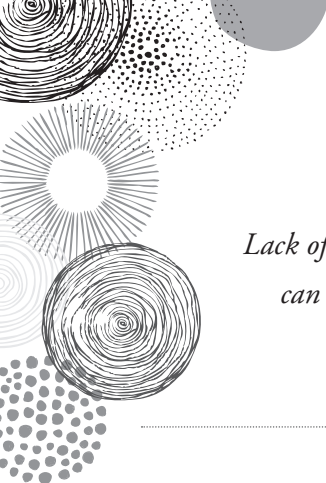
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*It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.*

OLD IRISH PROVERB



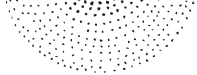


*Maybe ignorance is a gift.  
Lack of knowledge at the beginning of a journey  
can offer us courage to start new ventures.*

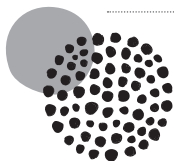
BECCA STEVENS

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*I don't know what prison you are in,  
but listen to me: the gate is open. We are loved by  
a God of freedom and liberation and adventure  
and meaning. Run like the wind!*

JEN HATMAKER





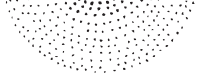
*The universal language is not texted, e-mailed,  
or spoken. It is felt.*

ANGELA AHRENDTS

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For the  
REST OF THE DAY,  
given the  
choice...  
between!  
CRITICIZING & LOVING,  
let's choose  
LOVE

• SHAUNA • NIEQUIST •

