



# MISSIONAL

## Hospitality

A Life Group Series

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*A Life Group Series*

42 Day Devotional

*With contributions from:*

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This devotional is intended to be a companion to “Missional Hospitality” – the teaching and Life Groups series at Oxford Vineyard Church in the Fall of 2023. Keep this book, make notes in it, and refer back to it at any time. It stands alone as a great devotional to deepen your journey into the pursuit of living in step with the work of the Spirit and being formed in the hospitable way of Jesus.

This book contains six weeks of a guided devotional for six days each week (Monday-Saturday). The seventh day is intentionally left blank. There is no devotional content for Sundays, just space for you to make notes in the book during the talks that correspond with each week of the series at the Vineyard. Each day of the devotional will include some thoughts from each week’s author, a scripture, and a guide for you to take some time to meditate on the scripture. Our hope is that 10-15 minutes daily in this material will make way for some significant encounters with God and result in your growth as a disciple of Jesus in community with others.

Each week’s material is intended as background for the weekly preaching at the Vineyard on Sunday. Here’s an example of how this will work:

Week one is intended for October 9-14. Those days of the devotional will correspond with the teaching on October 15.

Participating in a Life Group will enhance your experience with this book! For six weeks beginning October 1, groups will meet bi-weekly in and around Oxford to discuss the contents of the study from each day, share meals, ask deeper questions, pray, and make plans about how to integrate hospitality more deeply into our lives. It’s our desire and sincerest hope that you’ll join one of the groups and challenge yourself to engage with old and new friends in a meaningful way around the idea of participating with the hospitality of Jesus in the world around us in natural, good sense, down-to-earth ways we can share with others who do not yet have a life with God.

## FOREWORD: A NOTE ABOUT LECTIO DIVINA BY PARKER FREY

*“Lectio divina is a prayerful and meditative reading of Scripture employed to facilitate a transformative intimacy with God.”*

Lectio Divina is a way of praying with Scripture that has existed for almost two-thousand years. In the Vineyard, we have a consistent way we teach people to pray for others called the Five Step Prayer Model. Some of us are more familiar with one or the other, but I believe John Wimber intuitively used this ancient way of praying when he created this practical healing prayer model, possibly without even realizing it. Below are the movements in the Lectio model we'll use for the next six weeks and some thoughts about how they correspond to the Five Step Prayer Model:

1. **READY (Invocatio):** Here, we invoke the presence of God. We often pray, “come, Holy Spirit.” Just as we invite the Spirit to be present with us in a prayer encounter, we invite the Spirit to make us attentive to the Scripture.
2. **READ (Lectio):** In the Five Step Prayer Model, we'd ask the person what they would like prayer for. In this case, instead of listening to a person respond, we're “listening” to the Scriptures to inform our prayer time.
3. **REFLECT (Meditatio):** After listening to a person share what they would like prayer for, we would “diagnose” or decide how to pray. In Lectio, we engage how God is working with our own mind and emotions.
4. **RESPOND (Oratio):** Just the same as praying for another person, next we begin to pray based on what has stood out to us from the Scripture.
5. **RECEIVE (Contemplatio):** In Lectio as in healing prayer, we expect to encounter God. When we pray for folks using the Five Step Prayer Model, God often speaks to the person we're praying for, or impacts them in a physical way. Here, we listen for God's voice.
6. **RESOLVE (Operatio):** After prayer for another person, we talk about “post-prayer direction” or “follow-up”. Using Lectio, we resolve to live into what we have learned and experienced.

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<sup>1</sup> Wilhoit and Howard, *Discovering Lectio Divina: Bringing Scripture into Ordinary Life*, (IVP Books, 2012), 19.

**Week 1:**  
**October 9-15**  
**“Hospitable God”**  
**John Richter**

## The Call

### October 9, 2023

Simon Peter was awestruck by Jesus to the point that he left everything and followed him. Answering the call of Jesus always consists of leaving something to follow Him. He is worth our whole lives, but the truth is that in our culture it is easy to forget about our call to *follow* Jesus. Life gets full of “stuff” and we forget that our first and primary call is to follow Him. As followers, that means we are willing and committed to going where he goes and doing what he does. Followers follow! As we embark on the kingdom mission of hospitality, let us each remember our call to follow Jesus and make this the supreme purpose of our lives. When Simon Peter said “yes,” Jesus defined his new direction and purpose; “from now on you will be fishing for people.” This is the calling of every follower of Jesus!

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*'When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. '*

Luke 5:4-11

**Lectio:**

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2. **READ:** Read the passage of Scripture several times. What captures your attention intellectually or emotionally? What seems potentially meaningful to you?
  
3. **REFLECT:** Engage with your own mind and emotions. Consider what you see and hear and why it is important. Pay attention to memories, and feelings that arise. What seems personally significant for you, and why? What is God's invitation to you? Is it an offering or a request?
  
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5. **RECEIVE:** Reflect on the truth and beauty that is being revealed of God and his Word. Freely express your gratitude for his presence, love, and empowering grace. Write down some things that were important to you from the encounter with God and the text.
  
6. **RESOLVE:** Resolve to live into what you have learned and experienced. Pray that this encounter will deepen your union with God, transform you more into his likeness, and free you to partner with the Spirit as he works in your world. Ask God to help you to be attentive, perceptive, responsive, and receptive of his presence and activity in your day.



## **The Kingdom Story**

### **October 10, 2023**

The Kingdom story is a story of hospitality; God inviting the world “to eat and drink” at his table in his kingdom. Jesus stands at the door and knocks and the invitation is for everyone! Jesus ushered in the kingdom when he declared that “the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” “He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.” The King did not spread the Kingdom by political power, military power, or religious power, but by going from house to house and meal to meal spreading his Kingdom and inviting the world to the banquet table. His disciples followed Jesus' model by doing the same. We serve a radically hospitable God who longs for all to be saved and come to the knowledge of Him!

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*'A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. '*

*Luke 22:24-27*

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## Jesus, Tax Collectors & Sinners

### October 11, 2023

Tax collectors were among the most hated people in Jesus' day. Known sinners like prostitutes and thieves were looked down upon as worthless. As followers of Jesus, are we ever finding ourselves being accused of hanging out with the "wrong crowd?" Many of us come to know Jesus, then begin to hang out with other Christians and end up isolating ourselves from the hurting, broken, and lowly of our community. Being with believers is good, but neglecting to build connections and eat with the outcast is not the Jesus way! Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Therefore, we are each called to do the same in the place where we are planted. Jesus was confident in the presence of the Holy Spirit to draw people into his Kingdom! Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to those who need Him and when he does, invite them to spend time with us!

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*'After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."'*

*Luke 5:27-32*

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## What Is My View of God? October 12, 2023

Your view of God matters! Do you see him as angry and judgmental, or standing ready to welcome the lost who run to Him. Did the father judge the prodigal son with anger and scolding when he returned after wasting the Father's inheritance? No, he was moved with compassion and ran to Him. What is your view of God to those who are currently in sin or rejecting Jesus? Is he angry? Does he hate them? Is he shocked by their actions? When Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion toward them. How do we react? Do we run away, ignore it, or are we moved with compassion? If we are worshiping an angry God, we'll naturally act with apathy or anger toward those who are hurting. But if we worship the Father that Jesus taught us about who draws near and does not reject sinners, we will be moved with compassion toward those who do not know Jesus yet!

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*'...the younger son [...] squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. [...] when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' [...] while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fattest calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!'*

Luke 15:13-24

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## **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

### **October 13, 2023**

The end of the age when Jesus comes back and restores all things is described in the Book of Revelation as a wedding supper. Our God is preparing for us a banquet feast and blessed are those who are invited to this table. Our God is a hospitable God who goes out to the highways and byways to invite the lost to this great feast. When we eat this bread and drink this cup at the table with the lost, we are celebrating this future marriage feast in anticipation of what is to come.

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*'Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."'*

*Revelation 19:6-9*

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**We Are Sent**  
**October 14, 2023**

In this verse the followers of Jesus were sent out to the towns to declare that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. They were told to stay with those who welcomed them and to eat with them. Today let's remember that we are followers of Jesus sent out to the lost and hurting and broken people that we encounter everyday of our lives. We are called to be witnesses of his Kingdom and to eat with those who welcome us. We cannot do this in our own strength but only in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, we ask you to fill us again with your power to go!

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*'After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.''*

*Luke 10:1-4,8-9*

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**DAY 7: (SPACE FOR SUNDAY'S SERMON NOTES)**

**Week 2:  
October 16-22  
"Growing in Compassion"  
Rich Knudson**

## **God is Compassionate to All**

### **October 16, 2023**

This week's focus is compassion. The psalmist says that God is compassionate and saves the simplehearted, among whom the psalmist includes himself (Ps. 116:5-6); and that he is slow to anger and good to all (Ps. 145:8-9). Compassion is at the heart of who God is. The more we know Him and who we are in Him, the deeper our compassion will grow.

Today as you meditate on Matthew 5:43-48, focus your attention on what it says about God and his compassion. (We will revisit these verses on another day to consider another aspect.) Jesus is asking us to act like the Father. When you read this as the behavior of a perfect God, what do you see?

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*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'*

*Matthew 5:43-48*

**Lectio:**

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## Compassion is Worship

### October 17, 2023

Compassion is very important to God - more important than other practices we may think are more central to our faith. Worship (Amos 5:21-24), prayer (Proverbs 21:13, 28:27), tithing (Matthew 23:23), sacrifice (Isaiah 1:11, Hosea 6:6), church services (Isaiah 1:13-14) - these are a few of the things God despises and refuses to accept from us when we neglect mercy and justice. John says that we cannot love God and not act out of compassion (1 John 3:16-18).

In today's scripture, James discusses the true source and manifestation of our devotion to God. James says that true religion includes looking out for those who need an advocate, and is an expression of what happens to us when we are transformed by his Word. As you meditate in the mirror of scripture today, what do you see? How does he want you to reflect his truth to others?

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*'But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.'*

*James 1:22-27*

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## Compassion Calls for Forgiveness October 18, 2023

Family, friends, neighbors, church members - these are not our enemies, right? But why is it that sometimes we can't give those closest to us the same grace that we can give to people we hardly know? When someone hurts us, or reminds us too much of somebody who did, some part of us can see them as an enemy. At other times our outrage over a belief system, practice, or political viewpoint may be driven by how it has impacted people we know or by our fear that it will. Feeling hurt or threatened can make it hard to see people as more than what we are feeling. Sometimes in order to love certain people we need spiritual healing that comes from forgiveness.

Is there somebody you thought of while reading that last paragraph? Maybe God is bringing it up for a reason. At some point while you meditate on this passage, ask the Spirit to work these words into that wound and wash away anything that is separating you from God's heart for that person.

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*' "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'*

*Matthew 5:43-48 (NASB)*

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**Knowing Who We Are**  
**October 19, 2023**

While there may always be people we don't understand, we are cut from the same cloth. We are made in the image of the same God. Before we knew Him, we may have had different sins but we were in the same spiritual state. If we really understand how desperately inadequate we are without Jesus, we know that nobody is beyond his reach. We share a deeper bond with those who have a relationship with Him than any difference can separate. And with those who don't yet know him, we have been where they are now. They need desperately for you to give them the same compassion that Christ extended to you.

As you read this passage, consider your own history. Where were you before he called you? What has he delivered you from? How does he want that to manifest in your relationships with others?

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*'Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. '*

*Titus 3:1-7*

**Lectio:**

1. **READY:** Find a quiet, comfortable place. Begin by acknowledging God's lordship, friendship, & presence. Surrender the things that preoccupy your mind. Invite the Spirit to make you attentive to the text, to help you see its importance, respond to the invitation, and to be captivated and apprehended by God and his truth.
2. **READ:** Read the passage of Scripture several times. What captures your attention intellectually or emotionally? What seems potentially meaningful to you?
  
3. **REFLECT:** Engage with your own mind and emotions. Consider what you see and hear and why it is important. Pay attention to memories, and feelings that arise. What seems personally significant for you, and why? What is God's invitation to you? Is it an offering or a request?
  
4. **RESPOND:** What do you want to say to God in response to what you are hearing? Respond from the heart – express your desires, feelings, and convictions. Pray: "God, impart in my life what you have revealed in your word."
5. **RECEIVE:** Reflect on the truth and beauty that is being revealed of God and his Word. Freely express your gratitude for his presence, love, and empowering grace. Write down some things that were important to you from the encounter with God and the text.
  
6. **RESOLVE:** Resolve to live into what you have learned and experienced. Pray that this encounter will deepen your union with God, transform you more into his likeness, and free you to partner with the Spirit as he works in your world. Ask God to help you to be attentive, perceptive, responsive, and receptive of his presence and activity in your day.

## Compassion from Relationship

### October 20, 2023

Sometimes we don't understand how some people can believe or do the things they do. We can't imagine any valid reason for it or that we could possibly be in the same position. It can be a major commitment of time and energy to get to know where somebody is coming from, to learn to really understand each other, and to show the love that earns you a seat as a trusted counselor. But that is exactly what Jesus did. He didn't just issue decrees from the throne room of Heaven. He showed people a man who had gone through all the trials and temptations of any person but who had remained worthy. He kept company with the judged and despised. He knew them and loved them.

Consider as you meditate on Matthew 9:9-13:

- Have you ever been in the position of the sinners and tax collectors?
- How about in the position of the Pharisees?
- If you were there with Jesus' disciples, how would you have felt? How would you have answered?

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*'As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."'*

*Matthew 9:9-13*

**Lectio:**

1. **READY:** Find a quiet, comfortable place. Begin by acknowledging God's lordship, friendship, & presence. Surrender the things that preoccupy your mind. Invite the Spirit to make you attentive to the text, to help you see its importance, respond to the invitation, and to be captivated and apprehended by God and his truth.
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## Compassion Changes Priorities

### October 21, 2023

Sometimes it is hard to be compassionate because we are busy. We have schedules and deadlines, chores and errands. We may also be taking care of the needs of others. It is easy for us to become tyrannized by those things. We don't notice the needs of others or if we do, we don't feel like we can spare the time.

That's probably how Jesus and the disciples felt after a long day of ministering to the crowds. They tried to sail away across the sea of Galilee for some food and quiet time. They must have been exhausted, but the crowd ran ahead to meet them. When Jesus saw them, "he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things" (Mark 6:31-34). There are many ways to lay down your life - giving up dinner and rest is just one of them. Contemplate what Jesus viewed as important. In what ways did he lay down his life? What does that say to you about your priorities and agenda?

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*'If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'*

*Philippians 2:1-11*

**Lectio:**

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**DAY 7: Space for Sermon Notes:**

**Week 3:**  
**October 23-29**  
**"Who Is Our Neighbor?"**  
**John Richter**

## Who Is My Neighbor? October 23, 2023

Notice how the lawyer asked the question to “justify” himself. In other words, to excuse himself from reaching out and loving certain people that he disliked, disagreed with, or discounted. For the Pharisees, loving others who had similar beliefs and ideologies and lifestyles, that made sense. But loving Samaritans, Romans, tax collectors, or prostitutes made no sense to them.

In reality, we fall into this similar habit. We consciously or even subconsciously hang out and invite only “like-minded” people to our homes. We tend to isolate ourselves and our families from those who act or believe differently than us. Consider how often you interact with non-Christians. As you meditate today, allow the Holy Spirit to show areas of our heart where we have justified who our neighbor is and is not. He is inviting us into a lifestyle of hospitality to all those around us!

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*'Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" '*

*Luke 10:25-29*

**Lectio:**

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**Who Is My Neighbor? (p.2)**  
**October 24, 2023**

Who really is our neighbor—what are they like? What is going on inside of them? We live in a critical time post-COVID where so many are suffering with loneliness, depression, and suicidal ideation. According to The Survey Center on American Life, 54% of Americans claim that they don't have anyone who really knows them well. Since 1990, the number of people who say they have no close friends has quadrupled. Forty percent of Americans have no close friends or confidants. Suicide rates have increased by 33% in the last two decades. Major depression in youth has increased by sixty-three percent.

The majority of people in our sphere of influence are in pain, longing for real friendship, and longing for real community. May we learn to see people like Jesus and be moved with compassion toward them!

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*' But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. '*

*Luke 10:29-34*

**Lectio:**

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## Dining with Sinners

### October 25, 2023

Jesus' way of dining with sinners was counter cultural and offensive to the religious authorities. The entire crowd, even his followers, grumbled when he chose to dine with Zacchaeus. It was culturally normative to separate yourself from "unholy" people, but Jesus (God in the flesh) sought to eat with sinners. He demonstrated that holiness looks more like coming close to those who do not have a life with God.

Separation is a religious response, not a Holy Spirit lifestyle. The root of separation is fear, but perfect love drives out fear. Who are the people around us that we are afraid to hang out with? People with different religions, political views, views on sexual ethics, socio-economic views? Jesus saw Zacchaeus and invited himself to dinner! Let us repent of failing to see those around us and any fear we have of hanging out with them.

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*'When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."'*

*Luke 19:5-10*

**Lectio:**

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**Oikos**  
**October 26, 2023**

Jesus told one man he delivered from many demons to “return home (oikos), and declare how much God has done for you.” This Greek word oikos means “sphere of influence.” It refers to your family and friends, but also to your neighbors, co-workers, baristas, waitresses, or anyone whom you run into as you go through your day. Many of us say that we are not around non-believers, but is that true? Or do we just neglect them? The social norm is to put earbuds in and walk by people every day without engaging. We “tune people out.”

The truth is, many Americans are struggling with loneliness and depression and are needing friendship and community. The man set free from demons obeyed Jesus by going around to the “whole city” proclaiming what Jesus had done for him. He was a “light” to his oikos. May we follow his example by beginning to see people in our oikos and take small steps to build bridges of friendship and relationship.

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*'The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him. '*

*Luke 8:38-39*

**Lectio:**

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## The Banquet Invitation

### October 27, 2023

Jesus teaches us in these verses to practice inviting unfamiliar and diverse people to meals. He explicitly states that there is a heavenly reward for doing this. Inviting friends and relatives is easy, safe, and comfortable. Inviting strangers is risky, fearful, and difficult, but Jesus still challenges us to love strangers in this way. This is “The Way” of the Kingdom.

The Greek word used in the Bible for hospitality is “philoxenia.” “Philo” means to love like family and “xenia” means stranger. So Biblical hospitality means to love strangers that you encounter like your family! To follow Jesus in the lifestyle practice of hospitality, we must overcome our fears, build bridges of relationship with strangers, and invite them into our houses to share a meal. This can only be accomplished with help from the Holy Spirit! Begin asking Him today for this help with fears, building bridges of relationship, and being with strangers for a conversation, coffee, or a meal.

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*'He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."'*

*Luke 14:12-14*

**Lectio:**

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**Who Is My Neighbor? (p.3)**  
**October 28, 2023**

These words of Jesus help us to focus on what really matters. If we're honest, we worry about things that have little value! Our focus should be on his kingdom, his message, his calling, and purpose for our lives. When we align our hearts and life rhythms with his, then the needs we have will be given to us. Our treasure should not be on earthly things, but on his Kingdom. The Holy Spirit is inviting us into a lifestyle of missional hospitality to those around us. This is how the good news spread in the early church and it is how the Lord wants to bring his Kingdom into the lives of our community!

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*'And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. '*

*Luke 12:29-34*

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**DAY 7: (SPACE FOR SUNDAY'S SERMON NOTES)**

**Week 4:**  
**October 30-November 5**  
**“The Power of a Meal”**  
**Debbie Anderson**



## The Wedding of Cana

### October 30, 2023

Jesus did not plan on making his miraculous debut in Cana, but Father God wanted to display his heart through a wine-making miracle that day. Mary's heart of mercy fully activated when she saw the wine was running out embarrassingly early at the feast. She showed faith for two things; that God wanted to supply and Jesus could do it. It was all done in the context of a meal. In this expression of heavenly hospitality, we see that God himself not only cares about healing and deliverance, but also provision. A father would want enough food and wine for his child's wedding feast. So did Father God. Presence brought provision. At our tables, by ourselves or with or without guests, contemplate on inviting the presence of the Lord and expect all that his presence brings.

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*'On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. '*

*John 2:1-11*

**Lectio:**

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## Jesus Visits Zacchaeus

### October 31, 2023

Zacchaeus did not wake up one fateful morning planning on giving over half of his wealth away. Zacchaeus' curiosity about a holy man caused him to find a place to see Jesus as he was passing by. Wealthy Zacchaeus was used to getting his way, but being short and garnering the scorn of the crowd as tax collector did not earn him a front row seat. Zacchaeus resourcefully climbed a tree to see him. Jesus not only saw Zacchaeus, but saw his need for the one thing he couldn't buy. Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus' first need was *belonging*. A place at the table with Jesus changed his heart. From hoarding wealth to giving it away, Zacchaeus wanted to make right his wrongs. He wanted good standing with the Son of Man. That is the power of a meal; belonging, introduction, and becoming a part of the kingdom of God.

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*'He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." '*

*Luke 19:1-10*

**Lectio:**

1. **READY:** Find a quiet, comfortable place. Begin by acknowledging God's lordship, friendship, & presence. Surrender the things that preoccupy your mind. Invite the Spirit to make you attentive to the text, to help you see its importance, respond to the invitation, and to be captivated and apprehended by God and his truth.
2. **READ:** Read the passage of Scripture several times. What captures your attention intellectually or emotionally? What seems potentially meaningful to you?
3. **REFLECT:** Engage with your own mind and emotions. Consider what you see and hear and why it is important. Pay attention to memories, and feelings that arise. What seems personally significant for you, and why? What is God's invitation to you? Is it an offering or a request?
4. **RESPOND:** What do you want to say to God in response to what you are hearing? Respond from the heart – express your desires, feelings, and convictions. Pray: "God, impart in my life what you have revealed in your word."
5. **RECEIVE:** Reflect on the truth and beauty that is being revealed of God and his Word. Freely express your gratitude for his presence, love, and empowering grace. Write down some things that were important to you from the encounter with God and the text.
6. **RESOLVE:** Resolve to live into what you have learned and experienced. Pray that this encounter will deepen your union with God, transform you more into his likeness, and free you to partner with the Spirit as he works in your world. Ask God to help you to be attentive, perceptive, responsive, and receptive of his presence and activity in your day.

## The Great Banquet November 1, 2023

The invited guests had no idea how great the invitation was that they received in the passage we'll read today. They did not value the heart intent of the host, or the time or preparation or cost of the meal offered to them. They prioritized material things and business dealings over the invitation of a king. Did they think the invitation was coming again? Did they think they had no need? Did they not realize that all of the things they were clinging to would be there after spending a little time at a feast? The master turned his attention to those who knew they had need.

The Pharisees of Jesus' day did not perceive their need for Jesus. Instead, Jesus ministered to those who knew they had need. In extending ourselves in hospitality, keep the invitation to our tables open but realize that those who know they are hungry most likely will be filled.

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*'Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'*

Luke 14:16-23

**Lectio:**

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## **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand** **November 2, 2023**

The motivation for the meal in today's story can be captured in one word; "compassion". The same word that caused Jesus to heal the sick was the same word that caused Jesus to feed the hungry. The heart of God is all-inclusive toward our needs. As we minister to the physical needs of guests at a meal, we provide an avenue for many possible blessings. A guest who feels welcome, safe and provided for in our homes is open to more than the food we serve.

Rosaria Butterfield (author of "The Gospel Comes with a House Key"), a college professor and former member of the LGBTQ community found welcome, safety and provision in the home of a compassionate pastor and his wife while researching a book. After months of weekly dinners, Rosaria felt compelled to attend the pastor's church where she gave her life to the Lord of her table host. Compassion creates the space for miracles to take place.

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*'Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. '*

*Matthew 14:13-21*

**Lectio:**

1. **READY:** Find a quiet, comfortable place. Begin by acknowledging God's lordship, friendship, & presence. Surrender the things that preoccupy your mind. Invite the Spirit to make you attentive to the text, to help you see its importance, respond to the invitation, and to be captivated and apprehended by God and his truth.
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**Guest of the Shepherd**  
**November 3, 2023**

As we open our homes, we need to keep ourselves in the love of God. When we are filled, we cannot help but extend ourselves to others. The Lord prepares a table for us. We can trust that there is food and that the pesky brambles and unwanted critters were cleared out of the space. However, our table is before a strange audience—our enemies. While we don't want to give unusual attention to the opposition, never think that opposition does not exist for the people of God. It is in the view of enemies that God blesses us. He does not stop with basic food and protection, but he anoints us and fills our cup with continual overflow. That is the Shepherd's heart for us.

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*'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.'*

*Psalms 23:5-6*

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## Wedding Supper of the Lamb November 4, 2023

In spite of chaos in the world today, God reigns. He patiently waits for more to fill the wedding table of the Lamb! The Lord is calling a ready bride to the wedding. Her readiness is holiness. The world longs for holiness or right standing with God. They just don't know it is possible through Christ. When the people of God practice the holiness of God a highway to heaven is built. "And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness" (Isaiah 35:8). Every city can use a highway that clearly leads to the kingdom.

Holiness demands laying down hypocrisy and pride. Holiness is a rare gem that can be valued even by untrained eyes. Our table is not only a place of belonging and a place of provision but a place of introduction to relationship with a living, loving, Holy God.

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*'Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."'*

*Revelation 19:6-9*

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**DAY 7: (SPACE FOR SUNDAY'S SERMON NOTES)**

**Week 5:**  
**November 6-12**  
**“Making Space”**  
**Pam Knudson**

**Seek His Kingdom**  
**November 6, 2023**

Let's be honest, it is often hard to even think about being hospitable to others when we have so much on our minds. The stuff of life can easily consume and turn us inward as we look for ways to take care of our needs and the needs of the ones we love. Worries are quick to entangle our minds and distract us from our role as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. Yet our Father urges us to seek his Kingdom first as we rest in the knowing he will take care of us. I pray you will be present with God as he is with you while you meditate on the following passage.

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*'And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'*

*Matthew 6:28-34*

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**All Things to All People**  
**November 7, 2023**

Have you ever thought about the “calling” on your life? What is it God might be asking you to do for his Kingdom? Maybe your “calling” is less concrete than you imagined, and more like a season. Perhaps to find your “calling” you simply need to look at the people God has put in your life or your path. Does your neighbor need someone to talk to? Has a friend lost their spouse? Is a co-worker struggling with alcoholism? How can you be God’s hospitality to these people? As you meditate on the today’s scripture, I pray God would draw your heart to what he wants you to hear.

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*'For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. '*

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

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**Be the Welcome**  
**November 8, 2023**

There are many definitions of hospitality but one of my favorites is: "Hospitality is when someone feels at home in your presence." Jesus was great at that, but first he saw them. Are you seeing people? I mean, really seeing people?

It takes some intentionality in this current world to see people. It would mean having our heads up and looking around instead of down and focused on a screen. It would mean having our ears clear and not filled with an earbud or listening for a notification from our phone.

In the story about Zacchaeus climbing a tree to see Jesus. Jesus saw him, then was welcoming to him as he said he was going to have a meal with him. So Jesus saw and was the welcome. How can you see others and be the welcome? I pray as you meditate on the given passage you too feel seen and welcomed by Jesus.

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*'He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."*

*Luke 19:1-10*

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**Blessed to be the Blessing**  
**November 9, 2023**

Hospitality is a blessing. What do you have that would bring blessing to others? Your material resources? Your skills or time?

Actually, it isn't what you can "give" that matters most, it is who you are. Who are you? As a child of God you are salt and light!

In this country we are blessed to have salt and light be part of our everyday life and probably don't pay much attention to their value. But to those who don't have light or salt the life-giving blessings they are would be abundantly clear.

How is being salt and/or light to others a form of hospitality? I pray as you meditate on God's word he would speak deeply to your spirit.

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*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "*

*Matthew 5:13-16*

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**Blessed to be the Blessing**  
**November 10, 2023**

You most likely have heard the story about Jesus feeding 5,000—but have you thought about the hospitality required of his disciples at that event? They helped Jesus welcome the crowd even when they were trying to get away by themselves. But they reached their limits and told Jesus to send the crowds away to go get their own lunch. The response of Jesus was “You give them something to eat”. The disciples responded by telling Jesus their limits (only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes). But Jesus provided the crowd with a meal that brought the supernatural to their welcome. Don’t hear what I am not saying; of course we all have limits and need to set boundaries with our resources and our time, but pray about the hospitality Jesus wants you to show and how he will provide for it. He always makes space! I pray in your time of meditation in scripture your heart will be fed plentifully through his word.

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*'Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. '*

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**Stewards of Grace**  
**November 11, 2023**

I remember the last time I rode an airplane and how the stewardess made the flight less than a good experience. It has been a few years, but I haven't forgotten the airline and will never book a flight with them again. Isn't it amazing how one person can easily get me to write off a whole airline? Yet, they are in a position to represent a whole company, good or bad. Have you ever thought about yourself as a steward of God's grace to others? That can sound like a lot of pressure, but it doesn't have to be. The Holy Spirit can help you steward God's grace well. One of the most impactful prayers I have ever prayed has been asking God to help me see a person as he sees them. It is amazing how that kind of prayer brings about compassion and can compel you to steward his grace well. As you meditate on the passage, I pray God will highlight for you what your soul most needs to hear.

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*'The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. '*

*1 Peter 4:7-11*

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**DAY 7: (SPACE FOR SUNDAY'S SERMON NOTES)**

**Week 6:**  
**November 13-29**  
**“Naturally Supernatural Hospitality”**  
**Josh Jones**

**What Are You Doing, Father?**  
**November 13, 2023**

To start off this week, we want to begin by meditating on the words of Jesus. This statement in John chapter five has to do with knowing the heart of the Father. As we engage in the relational ministry and mission of Jesus, we see that it originates in the heart of the Father. Jesus shows us the heart of God. We love others because he first loved us. Jesus is the template of how we, sons and daughters of God, are to love, live, and act on the earth. As children of God we look to see how his love is invading the lives of those around us. We look to see what our Father is doing in the lives of our families, friends, neighbors, neighborhoods, coworkers, and cities and ask how we can join together with him in what he is doing.

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*'Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. '*

*John 5:19*

**Lectio:**

1. **READY:** Find a quiet, comfortable place. Begin by acknowledging God's lordship, friendship, & presence. Surrender the things that preoccupy your mind. Invite the Spirit to make you attentive to the text, to help you see its importance, respond to the invitation, and to be captivated and apprehended by God and his truth.
2. **READ:** Read the passage of Scripture several times. What captures your attention intellectually or emotionally? What seems potentially meaningful to you?
  
3. **REFLECT:** Engage with your own mind and emotions. Consider what you see and hear and why it is important. Pay attention to memories, and feelings that arise. What seems personally significant for you, and why? What is God's invitation to you? Is it an offering or a request?
  
4. **RESPOND:** What do you want to say to God in response to what you are hearing? Respond from the heart – express your desires, feelings, and convictions. Pray: "God, impart in my life what you have revealed in your word."
5. **RECEIVE:** Reflect on the truth and beauty that is being revealed of God and his Word. Freely express your gratitude for his presence, love, and empowering grace. Write down some things that were important to you from the encounter with God and the text.
  
6. **RESOLVE:** Resolve to live into what you have learned and experienced. Pray that this encounter will deepen your union with God, transform you more into his likeness, and free you to partner with the Spirit as he works in your world. Ask God to help you to be attentive, perceptive, responsive, and receptive of his presence and activity in your day.

**The Word Became Flesh And Blood, And Moved Into The Neighborhood**  
**November 14, 2023**

Through the Word becoming flesh, God is expressing his very self—something that we can see and touch, someone who reaches out to us.

The Word made flesh is the love of God. The great love he has for humanity, his children. He makes Himself known. God comes close to us. He came as close to us as he could. In the greatest display of love his God decided to make himself one with humanity by becoming one of us. He dwelt among us. He came close. He moved next door. God made Himself accessible. All of this love is a light that shines in the darkest places. It is a love that shines a light in the life of others. It is a love that is experiential and invitational. He initiated his good works in neighborhoods. If Jesus is our example and if he has sent us just as the Father has sent him, that probably means something for us as neighbors...

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*'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. '*

*John 1:14 (The Message)*

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## Questions of the Heart

### November 14, 2023

The Word, who became flesh and moved into the neighborhood, knows the questions of the human heart. He knows the needs of every person. He brings those things to the surface so that they can seek and find the answers in Him. We know that Jesus invites his first followers to come and follow him but I think we usually miss this important passage that says he invites them to come to his house. The fact is that the Lord opened up his home, it was natural and authentic. In that place the things that their hearts desired were revealed. They saw his life and they believed. In this place they come to recognize that Jesus is their messiah and they go and bring others to meet him. If you read the next verses you see in this passage it's here that Simon receives a new identity as Peter.

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*'When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. '*

*John 1:38-39*

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**The Spirit of the Lord is Upon You**  
**November 15, 2023**

You have the same Holy Spirit that Jesus had when he walked on the earth. Jesus brings new life and destiny to his followers. In John 20 Jesus tells them; “Just as the Father sent me, I send you” and then he breathes the Holy Spirit into them. This is the new birth. Shortly after this in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them to preach the gospel and bring the power of the kingdom to the lost, broken, and sick. And what happens? They start meeting in homes and the early church is birthed. God adds to their number daily. The Spirit of the Lord is upon you to do the same!

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*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

*Luke 4:18-19*

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**Invitation to a Changed Life**  
**November 17, 2023**

Jesus came, not for those who did not need saving, but for those who needed saving. We've been meditating on this; it was his mission—this is why he was sent. He was anointed to do this and we are too!

Jesus announces this salvation and begins putting it into practice in villages, neighborhoods, and homes. He's hanging out and having dinner with those who are deemed unworthy and unsaveable. He's spending time with them, he's come to meet those in need where they are. He brings the kingdom to them and invites them into a changed life.

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*'Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."'*

*Luke 5:31-32*

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**Healing, Deliverance, Peace, And Wholeness Can Be Found Next Door**  
**November 18, 2023**

What if God's answer to the needs of the world was right next door to them? Talk about the kingdom at hand!

Is your home a welcome place for the hurting to come in and feel safe and encounter the kingdom of God? Hospitality is a spiritually formative practice that reminds us, in a tangible way, of God's hospitality to us; while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. While we were strangers (or wanderers), God sought us out. God's welcome ushered us into community. What better way to proclaim God's love than to offer that same welcome to all? To "be given to hospitality" means to eagerly seek to love strangers. People who are strange, unknown, different. Even weird. The idea is not that we grudgingly offer hospitality, but that we do so eagerly. With as much passion as we can. I wonder what would happen to us, and to the people we are trying to show Christ to, if we eagerly pursued hospitality to strangers as eagerly as we engaged in debate with those with different opinions or political stances than us...

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*'Do not forsake your friend or the friend of your parent; do not go to the house of your kindred in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is nearby than kindred who are far away. '*

*Proverbs 27:10*

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**DAY 7: (SPACE FOR SUNDAY'S SERMON NOTES)**

