



HOSPITALITY IS OUR MISSION

Week 05

ICEBREAKER

Who is someone outside of your immediate family who has made you feel especially welcomed or included? What did they do to make you feel that way?

TESTIMONY

Give someone or a couple 5-10 minutes to share their testimony with the group.

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 14:15-24

“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ The servant came back and reported this to his master.

*Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘**Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.**’*

‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

DEVOTIONAL

Something interesting can happen when a community becomes healthy. We grow closer. We develop inside jokes. We know one another’s stories. We become comfortable. We enjoy being together. Those are good things. But if we are not careful, the very closeness that makes our community beautiful can eventually make it difficult for someone new to enter.

Jesus continually resisted that tendency. Throughout his ministry, Jesus made room for people others overlooked: sinners, outsiders, children, the sick, the lonely, the spiritually curious. His life communicated: **There is room for you here.**

Healthy community holds two things together: **Deep community and open community.** We want to genuinely know and love one another. But we never want to become so comfortable with who is already here that we stop noticing who is missing. Hospitality isn't just opening our homes. It's opening our lives. It's making room in our community for people who are disconnected, searching for God, new to church, or simply in need of relationship. A healthy group doesn't only ask: *"How are the people in our group doing?"* It also asks: *"Who isn't here yet?"*

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some ways a group can unintentionally become closed or inward-focused?
2. Think about Jesus' example. What kinds of people did he intentionally make room for, and what can we learn from him?
3. Who are people already in our lives that we could intentionally begin making room for?

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: WHO IS OUR "ONE MORE"?

Give everyone a moment to think and pray individually.

- Ask: Who is one person in your life who could use community right now?
- It could be: a neighbor, a coworker, a family member, someone who has drifted from church, someone exploring faith, someone who is lonely, someone you have been meaning to invite
- Have everyone write down **one name**.
- Then ask: *What would "making room" for that person actually look like?*
- It may mean inviting them to group. But it could begin much earlier—with dinner, coffee, checking in, serving them, listening to their story, or simply developing a genuine friendship.
- Pray together for each of the names.