



mothers offering mothers support



Hospitality

OVERVIEW

This discussion guide is for your MOMS Small Group to use when you meet. The goal of the small groups is to allow for deeper connections through our shared experience of motherhood, growing in our faith, and support and care for one another. No doubt you will figure out how to do just this when you meet.

If you want a way to structure your time, you can use this as a guide. We imagine that this may take as little as 10-15 minutes or your entire time to go through this guide. We don't have leaders, per se, in that we hope you work together as a group to share facilitating and leading. We imagine this as a devotion that can center everyone, and we also recognize that moms also need time and space for conversation about their lives.

- ❖ Read the prayer together.
- ❖ Have someone read the scripture and devotion.
- ❖ Answer a few of the discussion questions.
- ❖ Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

WEEK 1: CREATING A HOSPITABLE PLACE

Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for your love, hospitality, and care. As you welcome us with kindness and compassion, may we welcome others. Amen.

Scripture: Romans 12.9-13

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.





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Devotion:

When Christians welcome others, they also welcome Christ. Christian hospitality is about welcoming all people: friends, neighbors, strangers and even enemies. The practice of hospitality is displayed throughout scripture and is even a mandate from God in the Hebrew Bible (care for the strangers, widows, orphans, immigrants). Jesus made room for everyone, for all types of people—neighbors, the poor, His betrayers, strangers, children, and so many more. Jesus made room because his is a gospel for all people.

We welcome all people, both those we agree and disagree with and those who are similar and different from us. There are no exceptions. Just as God welcomes all, we care called to welcome one another. This is both a joy and a challenge.

Like you, I can remember those times that I did not feel welcome in certain spaces; and times when I was not particularly welcoming to others. I also vividly recall with appreciation times when I felt really welcome by what someone (or a group) did or said. When I feel welcome in a space, I am more readily able to share my authentic self.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ When was a time you felt welcome because of something someone said?
- ❖ When was a time you felt welcome because of something someone did?
- ❖ How can we create this small group as a welcome and hospitable space for all of us?

Sharing Prayer

- ❖ Share, if you like, prayer requests (highs/lows, joys/challenges) with one another.
 - ❖ Close with this prayer or another you have: *Welcoming God, thank you for making room for all of us at your table. We especially ask for your presence and love to be shown in all prayers expressed aloud and in our hearts. Open our eyes to see Christ in every person we encounter. Help us to extend love and welcome to others as you extend it to us, Amen.*
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