



moms

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 2: LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Prayer:

Loving God, be with us as we gather together. As you welcome us, may we welcome one another. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 12.28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' 29Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." 31The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' 32Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; 33and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' 34When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.





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Devotion:

Notice how Jesus snuck two commandments into His answer... With this twofold response, Jesus showed just how interrelated and inseparable these two commandments really are. To truly love God, we must also love people.

On our best days, we want to obey Jesus's command. But if we're honest, some people are easier to love than others. Maybe they require less sacrifice, they love us back, or they just caught us in a good mood. Whatever our reasons, Jesus challenged this preference and inconsistency: "For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same?" (Matthew 5.46). In other words, don't expect a gold star for only loving when it's easy.

When we feel guilty, we often want to justify our actions. When the Holy In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37) Jesus show his followers both *who* they should love and *how* they should love. The Good Samaritan and the man in the ditch had nothing in common, except for this one important detail: they were both journeying on the same road. For Jesus, that was enough of a reason to stop, to care, to be a neighbor. Anyone in our path—or on our path—is our neighbor, and we are called to love them.

It's hard to love everyone, especially these days when we are so divided about politics, science, and the list goes on. How can we possible be hospitable (especially to those who themselves do not seem hospitable!)? The truth is, in our own strength, we can't—not perfectly. But the command remains. Scripture tells us that those who are in Christ are able to love because He first loved us (1 John 4.19-20).

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ To whom do you have a hard time extending hospitality?
- ❖ Think of a time that you extended hospitality to or received hospitality from someone with whom you felt uncomfortable. What did you learn from the experience?

Sharing Prayer

- ❖ Share, if you like, prayer requests (highs/lowes, joys/challenges) with one another.
- ❖ Close with this prayer or another you have: *Dear God, help us to see Christ in every person we meet this week: friend, stranger, enemy. Give us the courage to extend welcome and hospitality to others as we would to you, Amen.*



