



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 3: A HOSPITABLE HOME

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for giving us different gifts of hospitality. Help us to use our gifts to welcome others and share your love. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 10.38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'





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Devotion:

Have you ever felt that things had to be “perfect” when hosting a guest or throwing a dinner or having a playdate for the kids? Where does this pressure come from?

Being fully present is one the best gifts of hospitality we can give someone. It doesn't matter if our houses are big enough, if our floors are clean enough, if our cooking skills are accomplished enough—we should show hospitality anyway. Our hearts and lives are messy. But when we open our doors and our arms, we're telling the story of Christ's love. By modeling it ourselves, we can create hospitable places for hard conversations with our kids and partner and other friends and acquaintances.

We each have different gifts, strengths and resources when it comes to welcoming others. No one excels at every kind of welcoming ministry, and Jesus affirmed the diversity of hospitality gifts. We can use ours and encourage others to live into theirs.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Each of us has gifts we can use to welcome others and create hospitable spaces. What are yours? (examples: talking to strangers and people you don't know; listening; making people feel welcome; allowing communication for hard conversations, especially in our homes with children and/or partners; cooking community meals; event planning; writing notes; kindness)? If you need some help, the other moms in the group can help affirm your gifts!
- ❖ Which kind of hospitable gifts (see above) are challenging for you?
- ❖ What are some of the distractions that prevent us from being present with others?
- ❖ What are some ways to focus on being fully present with the people in our lives, including our family, friends, etc.?

Sharing Prayer

- ❖ Share, if you like, prayer requests (highs/low, joys/challenges) with one another.
 - ❖ Close with this prayer or another you have: *Welcoming God, thank you for blessing us with different gifts. Empower us to use our gifts to practice hospitality and to create community where everyone belongs. Amen.*
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