



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 4: HOSPITALITY BEYOND YOUR HOME

Prayer:

Loving God, you created each of us in your image. Help us to celebrate the gift of human diversity and extravagantly welcoming all people, recognizing our shared humanity. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 25.37-40

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."





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Devotion:

Hospitality is uncomfortable. To a certain degree, we all like a quiet, settled life. I mean, it's easier to remain comfy and contented with the people we're used to, rather than to engage with those we don't know anything about. It can feel awkward, even risky, reaching out to people who are different, whose lives seem so dissimilar to our own.

The gospel calls for us to make room for the poor in our budgets and in our homes, and to welcome them into the family of God, just as God welcomes us. Regardless of our material wealth or lack, we are all spiritually bankrupt without the lavish love and grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ. When we think loving the poor is too complicated—if we get bogged down in the logistics, wondering who and how and what, when it comes to our time and resources—we can go to God's Word for clarity. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul gives us a reminder on how to see things gospel-side up: Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life (1 Timothy 6.18-19).

Generosity is more than a kind gesture; it is a lifeline that keeps us tethered to what is real, to what is eternal. When we joyfully give our resources to those in need, it reminds us that everything we have is a gift from the God who lifts us from our desperate need by grace. May we be generous with our time, our homes, our money, as an outpouring of the room that has already been made for us in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What are ways to extend hospitality beyond your home?
- ❖ Talk about an experience you have had (or your family has had) when you have reached beyond comfort to welcome the least of these.

Sharing Prayer

- ❖ Share, if you like, prayer requests (highs/lows, joys/challenges) with one another.
- ❖ Close with this prayer or another you have: *Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see one another as fellow children of God. Give us the courage to choose welcome and to work for a world in which all people belong. Amen.*

