

# Daily Reflection and Discussion Questions

## Week 1: Created for Community

### Genesis 2:18

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) says, **"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"** From the very beginning, God designed us for connection. Even in a perfect world, before sin entered, God saw that Adam's solitude was *not good*. This verse reminds us that we were never meant to navigate life alone. While it specifically refers to the creation of Eve as Adam's partner, it also points to a broader truth—God created us for fellowship, not just in marriage but in friendships, family, and Christian community. We all have seasons where we feel isolated or disconnected, but God's plan is for us to find belonging among His people. **Have you ever experienced a time when you felt alone? How did God use others to bring encouragement and support into your life?**

The phrase **"a helper suitable for him"** emphasizes that relationships are meant to be mutual—we give and receive support, encouragement, and love. The Hebrew word for "helper" (*ezer*) is even used to describe God's role in aiding His people (Psalm 33:20), showing that being a helper is not about inferiority, but about strength, purpose, and partnership. In the same way, Christian fellowship is about walking alongside one another in faith. Whether through a small group, an online Christian community, or a church family, God calls us to invest in relationships that strengthen our walk with Him. **What steps can you take to build stronger Christian connections in your life? How can you be intentional about reaching out to those who may feel alone?**

God's heart is for us to experience deep, life-giving relationships that reflect His love. As we embrace Christian community, we find encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth. This week, take time to pray about how God wants you to engage with others. Whether it's joining a Bible study, reaching out to a friend, or offering encouragement to someone in need, let's commit to living out His design for fellowship and belonging.

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV) says, **"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."** This passage beautifully illustrates God's design for Christian fellowship. We were never meant to go through life alone. Just as two people working together can accomplish more than one person alone, our faith is strengthened when we surround ourselves with other believers. Life brings both joys and hardships, and having a strong Christian community means we have people who will walk alongside us, encourage us, and help us stand firm in faith. **Can you think of a time when someone's support helped you through a challenging season? How did their encouragement reflect God's love?**

The phrase "**pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up**" is a sobering reminder of the dangers of isolation. When we struggle alone, it's easier to feel discouraged, overwhelmed, or even disconnected from God. That's why Christian fellowship is so important—it reminds us that we are never truly alone. God calls us to not only receive encouragement but also to be a source of support for others. Whether through prayer, a listening ear, or acts of kindness, we can reflect Christ's love by being present for those in need. **How can you be intentional about strengthening your Christian relationships this week? Is there someone God is leading you to reach out to who may be feeling alone?**

As believers, we are part of the body of Christ, and our faith grows when we invest in relationships that honor Him. This week, take a moment to pray about how you can build deeper connections with your church, small group, or online Christian community. Together, we can support, uplift, and strengthen one another in our walk with Christ.

### **Acts 2:42-47**

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) describes the early church, saying, "**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**" This passage gives us a beautiful picture of what Christian fellowship looks like. The early believers didn't just meet occasionally—they lived life together, sharing meals, studying God's Word, praying, and meeting each other's needs. Their faith was not just personal; it was deeply connected to their community. **What stands out to you the most about how the early church lived out their faith? How does this compare to how we experience Christian fellowship today?**

One of the most powerful aspects of this passage is the way the believers prioritized generosity, unity, and worship. Their love for one another was a testimony to the world, and as a result, "**the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**" True Christian fellowship is not just about gathering—it's about actively loving, serving, and growing together in faith. When we live in close community with other believers, we reflect God's love in a way that draws others to Him. **How can we be more intentional about creating a Christ-centered community in our own lives? In what ways can we show generosity and hospitality to others as the early church did?**

As believers today, we may not all live in the same place or gather daily, but we can still cultivate a spirit of fellowship like the early church. Whether through a small group, an online Christian community, or intentional relationships within our church, we are called to share life together. This week, consider one way you can strengthen your connection with fellow believers—perhaps by inviting someone to coffee, joining a Bible study, or simply reaching out in prayer. Let's strive to build a community that reflects the love, joy, and unity of the early church.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

In **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**, Paul uses the imagery of the human body to describe the unity and diversity of the church. He writes, **“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ” (v.12)**. This passage reminds us that every believer has a unique and important role in the body of Christ. Just as the eye, hand, and foot each serve different functions but are essential to the body’s overall health, we each have a purpose within our Christian community. No one is insignificant, and no one is meant to function alone. **Have you ever felt like your role in the church or Christian community was unimportant? How does this passage challenge that mindset?**

Paul goes on to emphasize that there should be no division in the body and that each part should have equal concern for the others. **“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (v.26)**. This is a powerful reminder of what true Christian fellowship looks like—when one member struggles, the whole community comes together to support and uplift. When one rejoices, we celebrate together. Our faith was never meant to be lived in isolation; we are called to walk alongside one another, strengthening and encouraging each other. **How can you be more intentional about supporting and valuing the people in your Christian community? In what ways can you use your God-given gifts to serve and strengthen the body of Christ?**

As believers, we each have a unique contribution to make, and when we work together in love and unity, we reflect Christ to the world. This week, take time to pray about your role in the body of Christ. Ask God to show you how He wants to use you to serve, encourage, and build up others. Whether through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or using your talents for His glory, let’s commit to being a connected and functioning part of God’s family.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) says, **“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”** These verses emphasize the importance of gathering as believers and actively encouraging one another in faith. The Christian life was never meant to be lived in isolation. Instead, we are called to meet together, not just for social connection, but to inspire each other toward love and righteous living. In today’s busy world, it can be easy to drift away from Christian fellowship, whether due to schedules, personal struggles, or even spiritual discouragement. **What are some obstacles that can keep us from consistently gathering with other believers? How can we be intentional about making Christian fellowship a priority?**

The phrase **“spur one another on toward love and good deeds”** reminds us that fellowship isn’t just about receiving encouragement—it’s also about giving it. God calls us to be an active part of our Christian community, lifting each other up, offering prayer and support, and holding one another accountable. When we neglect meeting together, we miss out on the strength and encouragement that comes from shared faith. The urgency in these verses—**“all the more as you see the Day approaching”**—points to the fact that our time on earth is limited. As we await Christ’s return, our need for spiritual encouragement grows even greater. **How can you be intentional about**

## **encouraging others in their faith journey? Who in your life might need a word of encouragement or a reminder that they are not alone?**

As followers of Christ, we thrive when we are in community. This week, challenge yourself to reach out—whether by attending a small group, inviting a friend to church, or simply sending a message of encouragement to someone who may need it. When we build up one another in faith, we create a strong, supportive body that reflects God’s love and draws others closer to Him.

### **Week 2: The Power of Encouragement**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) says, **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** This verse highlights the incredible power of encouragement within Christian fellowship. As believers, we are called to strengthen and uplift one another, reminding each other of God’s faithfulness and the hope we have in Christ. Encouragement isn’t just about offering kind words; it’s about actively supporting others in their spiritual journey. Life is full of challenges, and at times, faith can feel weak or tested. A simple word of encouragement can reignite someone’s trust in God and help them persevere. **Think of a time when someone’s encouragement made a difference in your life. How did their words or actions impact your faith?**

Paul’s instruction to **“build each other up”** suggests that Christian encouragement is not just occasional, but a continual practice. Just as a builder carefully constructs a structure, we are to invest in one another’s spiritual growth with patience and love. This kind of support creates a strong, faith-filled community where no one feels alone or forgotten. In a world that often tears people down, we have the opportunity to be a light by choosing words and actions that strengthen those around us. **Who in your life could use some encouragement right now? How can you be intentional this week in building up a friend, family member, or fellow believer?**

Encouragement is a powerful gift that we can freely give, and it has lasting effects on the body of Christ. This week, take a moment to pray about how you can uplift someone—whether through a text, a phone call, a prayer, or simply by being present. Let’s commit to building each other up in faith, just as God calls us to do.

#### **Hebrews 3:13**

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV) says, **“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”** This verse reminds us that encouragement is not just an occasional act, but a daily practice that helps keep our hearts tender toward God. Life’s challenges, disappointments, and temptations can weigh us down, making it easy to drift away from our faith. That’s why God calls us to be a source of strength and support for one another—helping each other stay firm in truth. Encouragement is more than just making someone feel better; it’s a spiritual safeguard that keeps us from being deceived by sin. **How have you experienced encouragement strengthening your faith during a difficult time? What difference does it make to hear words of truth and hope from fellow believers?**

The phrase “**as long as it is called ‘Today’**” is a call to urgency. Every day presents an opportunity to speak life into someone else, to remind them of God’s promises, and to strengthen their walk with Christ. None of us are meant to battle discouragement alone. When we intentionally encourage one another, we help create a community of faith that resists doubt and spiritual stagnation. **Who in your life might be struggling in their faith and could use a word of encouragement today? How can you develop a habit of speaking life into others on a daily basis?**

Encouragement has the power to keep hearts soft, faith strong, and community thriving. This week, make it a point to reach out to someone—whether through a kind word, a prayer, or simply by reminding them of God’s faithfulness. Small acts of encouragement can have a big impact in helping others remain steadfast in their faith.

### **Romans 15:4-5**

Romans 15:4-5 (NIV) says, **"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had."** These verses remind us that Scripture is not just a collection of historical writings—it is God’s living Word, meant to strengthen and encourage us. The Bible provides endurance for our faith, reminding us of God’s faithfulness in every season of life. When we engage with Scripture and share its truths with others, we offer encouragement that builds up the body of Christ. **How has reading God’s Word encouraged you in times of struggle? In what ways can you use Scripture to uplift and strengthen others?**

Paul also emphasizes that God is the ultimate source of endurance and encouragement. He desires for us to reflect this same heart toward one another, fostering unity and support within the Christian community. Encouragement isn’t just about making someone feel better—it’s about pointing them to the truth of God’s promises and helping them stand firm in faith. When we take on the attitude of Christ, we become instruments of His encouragement, strengthening others just as He strengthens us. **How can you be more intentional about encouraging others with God’s Word? Who in your life might need to hear a reminder of God’s faithfulness today?**

Encouragement is a vital part of Christian fellowship, and when we share God’s Word with one another, we help each other endure and grow in hope. This week, consider reaching out to a friend or loved one with a Scripture that has encouraged you. A simple message, prayer, or conversation rooted in God’s truth can be a powerful source of strength for someone in need.

### **Proverbs 12:25**

Proverbs 12:25 (NIV) says, **“Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.”** This verse powerfully illustrates the impact of encouragement. Worry and anxiety can feel like a heavy burden, pressing down on the heart and draining joy and hope. But a simple, kind word has the ability to lift someone’s spirit and bring renewed strength. Encouragement doesn’t always require grand gestures—it can be as simple as a sincere compliment, a reassuring message, or a reminder of God’s love. **Have you ever received a word of encouragement that brightened your day or changed your perspective? How did it impact you?**

The contrast in this verse reminds us that our words have power—they can either add to someone’s burden or help lighten it. As followers of Christ, we are called to be intentional about lifting others up, especially those who may be struggling with anxiety, doubt, or discouragement. Sometimes, we assume people are fine because they don’t openly express their struggles, but a kind word, rooted in God’s truth, can make a world of difference. **Who in your life might be carrying a heavy heart right now? How can you offer encouragement through your words and actions today?**

Encouragement is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways we can reflect God’s love to others. This week, take a moment to reach out to someone—whether through a text, a phone call, or a handwritten note—and offer a word of kindness and hope. A small act of encouragement could be exactly what someone needs to remind them that they are not alone and that God is with them.

### **Galatians 6:2**

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) says, **“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”** This verse beautifully captures the essence of Christian fellowship—walking alongside one another in love and support. Life is full of challenges, and God never intended for us to bear our burdens alone. Whether someone is struggling with grief, stress, spiritual doubt, or personal hardships, we are called to step in, offer encouragement, and help lighten their load. This isn’t just a kind suggestion—it is how we fulfill the law of Christ, which is to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). **Can you think of a time when someone helped carry your burdens? How did their support reflect God’s love in your life?**

Paul’s words remind us that encouragement is more than just uplifting words; it is also action. Sometimes, supporting others means praying for them, offering practical help, or simply being present. As the body of Christ, we are interconnected, and when one of us struggles, we all feel the weight of it. But together, we find strength. **Who in your life might be carrying a heavy burden right now? How can you be intentional this week about offering encouragement, whether through words, actions, or prayer?**

True Christian fellowship means standing together, bearing one another’s struggles, and pointing each other back to God’s grace. This week, take a moment to reach out to someone who may need support. A kind gesture, a listening ear, or a reminder of God’s promises can make all the difference in helping them persevere in faith.

## **Week 3: Unity in Christ**

### **Ephesians 4:3-6**

Ephesians 4:3-6 (NIV) says, **“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”** These verses emphasize the deep unity that believers share in Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are not just individuals on separate spiritual journeys—we are part of *one* body, connected by the Holy Spirit. Unity in Christ does not mean we are all the same, but rather that we are united in purpose, faith, and love. This unity is not automatic; Paul urges us to **“make every effort”** to

maintain it, reminding us that peace and harmony within the body of Christ require intentionality. **What does making “every effort” to keep unity look like in your daily life? How can you contribute to peace and harmony in your Christian community?**

Paul’s words also highlight that our unity is rooted in the very nature of God—**“one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”** When we remember that we all serve the same God and share the same hope, it shifts our focus from differences to what truly matters: our shared identity in Christ. However, division, misunderstandings, and pride can sometimes weaken our sense of belonging. Encouraging one another, seeking reconciliation, and prioritizing love over personal preferences are ways we can guard the unity that God has given us. **Is there someone in your life with whom you need to restore unity? How can you practice humility and encouragement to strengthen your relationships in the body of Christ?**

Unity in Christ is a gift, but it is also a calling. This week, challenge yourself to be a peacemaker in your community—whether by extending grace, encouraging a fellow believer, or being intentional about building deeper relationships. When we pursue unity, we reflect the heart of God and strengthen the church, making it a place of belonging and love for all.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV) says, **“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”** Paul uses the imagery of the human body to illustrate the unity of believers in Christ. Just as a body has different parts that serve different functions, we as Christians have unique gifts and callings, but we all belong to the same body—the Church. This unity transcends our backgrounds, cultures, and differences because we are bound together by the Holy Spirit. **What does this passage teach us about the importance of diversity within the Church? How can we embrace and celebrate our differences while still maintaining unity in Christ?**

Paul also emphasizes that this unity is not something we achieve on our own—it is the result of being **“baptized by one Spirit.”** Our shared faith in Christ is what unites us, not our personal opinions, preferences, or backgrounds. However, maintaining this unity requires humility, love, and a willingness to serve one another. When we focus on Christ rather than on what divides us, we reflect God’s design for His Church—a diverse but united family working together for His glory. **How can you contribute to unity in your Christian community? Are there areas where you need to shift your focus from differences to the common faith you share with other believers?**

True unity in Christ does not mean uniformity; it means valuing one another’s differences while recognizing that we all belong to the same spiritual family. This week, consider how you can foster a spirit of unity in your church or faith community—whether by encouraging someone, bridging a divide, or simply reminding others that we are all part of the same body, serving the same Lord.

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV) says, **“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

This passage is a powerful reminder that our identity is not rooted in worldly divisions but in our shared faith in Jesus. In a world that often separates people based on race, status, or background, Paul emphasizes that in Christ, these barriers no longer define us. As believers, we are first and foremost children of God, united as one family. **What worldly divisions or labels sometimes make it difficult to see others as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? How can we intentionally focus on our shared identity in Jesus rather than our differences?**

Paul’s phrase **“clothed yourselves with Christ”** speaks to a transformation that takes place when we follow Him. Just as clothing is something we put on daily, we are called to put on Christ’s character—His love, humility, and grace—in all our interactions. True unity in Christ does not erase our uniqueness, but it does call us to love and accept one another as equals in God’s kingdom. This means rejecting favoritism, prejudice, and division, and instead embracing the truth that we all belong to the same spiritual family. **How can you live out this unity in your daily life? Are there areas in your heart where God is calling you to be more inclusive and welcoming to others in the body of Christ?**

The Church is strongest when we stand together, recognizing that what unites us—our faith in Jesus—is far greater than what could ever divide us. This week, reflect on how you can foster unity in your Christian community, whether by reaching out to someone different from you, listening with empathy, or encouraging a fellow believer. When we embrace our identity as one in Christ, we create a fellowship that reflects the heart of God’s kingdom.

### **Colossians 3:12-14**

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV) says, **“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”** These verses remind us that unity in Christ is not automatic—it requires intentional effort and a heart that reflects Christ’s character. Paul instructs believers to “clothe” themselves with virtues that promote harmony within the body of Christ. Just as we put on clothes daily, we must choose to put on **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience** in our interactions with others. **Which of these virtues do you find the easiest to practice? Which ones challenge you the most? How can you be more intentional about clothing yourself with Christlike character in your daily relationships?**

Paul also emphasizes the importance of **forgiveness and love** in maintaining unity. He reminds us that just as Christ has forgiven us, we must extend the same grace to others. Forgiveness is not always easy, but it is essential in Christian fellowship. Holding onto grudges or bitterness only creates division, while love is what “binds them all together in perfect unity.” When we choose to love, even when it’s difficult, we reflect the heart of Jesus and strengthen the body of Christ. **Is there someone in your life that God is calling you to forgive or extend grace to? How can practicing forgiveness and love deepen the unity in your Christian community?**

True unity is built on Christlike character, sacrificial love, and a commitment to peace. This week, take time to reflect on how you can embody these virtues in your relationships. Whether through an act of kindness, an encouraging word, or choosing to let go of an offense, let's strive to build a community that reflects the unity and love of Christ.

### **John 17:20-23**

John 17:20-23 (NIV) says, **“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”** In this passage, Jesus prays for all future believers, asking God to make them one, just as He and the Father are one. This unity is not just about agreement or cooperation—it is a reflection of the divine relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son. When believers live in unity, they become a powerful testimony to the world about God's love and the truth of Christ. **How does Christian unity impact the way non-believers see Jesus? What can we do to ensure that our relationships within the body of Christ reflect His love and unity?**

Jesus' prayer shows that unity among believers is not optional; it is essential for our witness to the world. Disunity, arguments, and division weaken our testimony, while love and harmony point others to God's transformative power. This kind of unity doesn't mean we all have to think or act the same, but it does mean we share the same heart—to love God and love one another. **Are there areas in your life where you struggle to maintain unity with other believers? How can you seek reconciliation or greater understanding to strengthen the body of Christ?**

Jesus desires for His followers to experience the same deep, unbreakable unity that He shares with the Father. This week, reflect on how you can be an agent of peace and unity within your church, small group, or Christian community. Whether through an encouraging word, an act of kindness, or extending grace to someone with whom you disagree, let's work toward the kind of unity that brings glory to God and draws others to Him.

## **Week 4: Practicing Hospitality**

### **Romans 12:13**

Romans 12:13 (NIV) says, **“Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”** This verse is a simple yet powerful call to generosity and open-hearted living. Paul encourages believers to actively care for one another, meeting both spiritual and physical needs. Hospitality in the biblical sense goes beyond just inviting someone into our home—it's about cultivating a welcoming spirit that reflects God's love. When we practice hospitality, we create a sense of belonging for others, especially those who may feel lonely or disconnected. **How do you define hospitality in your own life? In what ways can you be more intentional about sharing what you have with others?**

True Christian hospitality is not about impressing others with a perfect home or elaborate meals; it's about opening our hearts and lives to those in need. Whether it's inviting someone for a meal, offering a listening ear, or creating a welcoming atmosphere in your church or community, small acts of kindness can have a significant impact. Jesus Himself modeled hospitality by welcoming all people, regardless of their background or status, and we are called to do the same. **Who in your life might need a place of encouragement and belonging? How can you extend hospitality to someone this week in a way that reflects Christ's love?**

Hospitality is a powerful way to build Christian fellowship and strengthen the body of Christ. This week, challenge yourself to find one practical way to show hospitality—whether by inviting someone over, sharing a meal, or simply being present for someone who needs encouragement. In doing so, we reflect the love of Jesus and create a space where others can experience His grace and kindness.

### **Hebrews 13:2**

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV) says, **“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”** This verse highlights the importance of welcoming others with open hearts and open hands. Biblical hospitality goes beyond just showing kindness to friends or family—it includes welcoming strangers and those who may be outside of our usual circles. In the Old Testament, hospitality was a sacred duty, and this verse reminds us that when we extend kindness to others, we may be entertaining divine encounters. **Have you ever received unexpected kindness from someone? How did it make you feel, and how can you extend that same hospitality to others?**

This verse challenges us to see hospitality as more than just an occasional act—it's a lifestyle of generosity, openness, and love. Sometimes, we hesitate to welcome others because of fear, inconvenience, or busyness. Yet, when we choose to extend hospitality, we reflect the heart of Christ, who welcomed all people. Hospitality can be as simple as inviting someone to sit with you at church, sharing a meal, or making a newcomer feel at home. **Is there someone in your life who might need the gift of hospitality right now? How can you step out of your comfort zone to show Christ's love in a tangible way?**

Hospitality is a powerful way to strengthen Christian fellowship and create a sense of belonging. This week, consider how you can open your heart and home to someone in need of encouragement or connection. Even the smallest acts of hospitality can reflect God's love and make a lasting impact on someone's life.

### **1 Peter 4:9-10**

1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV) says, **“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”** These verses remind us that hospitality is not just an action but an attitude. Peter calls believers to welcome others *without grumbling*—with a willing and joyful heart. True Christian hospitality is not about impressing guests or fulfilling an obligation; it's about serving others with love and generosity as an extension of God's grace. **When you think about hospitality, do you see it as a**

## **joyful opportunity or a burden? What are some practical ways you can cultivate a heart of hospitality in your daily life?**

Peter also connects hospitality with serving others using the gifts God has given us. Hospitality isn't just about opening our homes—it can be expressed through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and meeting the needs of those around us. Every believer has unique gifts, and we are called to use them for the benefit of others. Whether it's offering a meal, lending a listening ear, or creating a welcoming space at church, hospitality is a powerful way to reflect Christ's love. **What gifts has God given you that you can use to serve others? How can you be more intentional about using those gifts to build a stronger sense of fellowship and belonging in your community?**

Hospitality is a reflection of God's generosity toward us. This week, challenge yourself to practice hospitality in a way that aligns with your gifts. Whether it's inviting someone for coffee, sending an encouraging message, or opening your home, remember that every act of hospitality is an opportunity to steward God's grace and strengthen the body of Christ.

### **Luke 10:38-42**

Luke 10:38-42 (NIV) tells the story of Mary and Martha: **“As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’”** This passage teaches us that hospitality is not just about serving, but about being present. Martha was focused on the tasks of hospitality, while Mary prioritized being with Jesus. **When you think about hospitality, do you tend to focus more on the practical details or on meaningful connection? How can you balance both to ensure your hospitality reflects Christ's heart?**

Jesus' response to Martha reminds us that while serving others is important, our primary focus should be on spending time with Him and fostering deep relationships. It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of hosting—making sure everything is perfect—but true hospitality is about creating an environment where people feel seen, heard, and valued. Martha's mistake wasn't in serving, but in allowing her worries to distract her from what mattered most. **How can you shift your focus from performance-based hospitality to a heart-centered approach that prioritizes relationships? Are there ways you can simplify your hospitality efforts so that you have more time to truly engage with others?**

This passage encourages us to practice hospitality with a spirit of peace and presence rather than stress and obligation. This week, challenge yourself to open your heart and home in a way that fosters connection, whether through inviting a friend over, having an unrushed conversation, or simply being fully present when engaging with others. When we focus on the *why* of hospitality rather than just the *how*, we reflect Christ's love and create a true sense of belonging.

### **Acts 2:46-47**

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV) says, **“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”** This passage gives us a glimpse into the early church and how hospitality played a key role in fostering community and spiritual growth. The believers didn’t just gather for worship; they also shared meals, opened their homes, and lived life together with joy and sincerity. Their hospitality created an atmosphere of love and unity that was so compelling that others were drawn to Christ. **How can we create that same sense of belonging and fellowship in our Christian communities today? What practical steps can we take to open our homes and hearts to others?**

One powerful lesson from this passage is that hospitality and community were not occasional acts for the early believers—they were a *daily* practice. They understood that faith is strengthened in relationships, and true fellowship happens not just in formal gatherings but in everyday life. Their willingness to share meals and praise God together was an expression of their love for Christ and one another. As a result, their community flourished, and many came to faith. **How can we shift our mindset to see hospitality not as an obligation, but as an opportunity to reflect God’s love? In what ways can you make hospitality a more natural and consistent part of your life?**

The example of the early church reminds us that hospitality is a powerful tool for building Christian fellowship and spreading the gospel. This week, consider how you can be more intentional about inviting others into your life—whether through sharing a meal, reaching out to someone new at church, or simply offering encouragement. When we practice hospitality with glad and sincere hearts, we create spaces where God’s love is made visible, and lives are transformed.