



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

#### **Weekly Questions:**

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

#### **Devalued: Inhospitable**

##### **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11**

- What is a personal example of a time when a simple act of hospitality, from a stranger or a friend, made a significant difference in your day or your life?
- 1 Peter 4:9 says, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." Sometimes good intentions can be unhelpful if they lack true hospitality, such as bringing food a family can't eat. How can we shift our mindset from simply "doing a good thing" to practicing genuine, empathetic hospitality that truly meets the needs of others?
- Why is it important to recognize how our actions or words are received by someone else is more important than our intentions? What is the high cost of inhospitality?
- Pastor Josh shared a personal example of how a common question like "How many kids do you have?" can be painful for someone who has experienced loss. What does this teach us about the importance of empathy and "imagining what life is like for others"?
- Hospitality is often using our gifts to serve others (1 Peter 4:10). How can you intentionally use a specific gift you have – whether it's the gift of presence, serving, or yardwork, a meal – to demonstrate Christ-like hospitality to someone in your community this week?
- Brené Brown says: "We need to dispel the myth that empathy is 'walking in someone else's shoes.' Rather than walking in your shoes, I need to learn how to listen to the story you tell about what it's like in your shoes *and* believe you even when it doesn't match my experiences." How does this kind of hospitality help the God-image in us see the God-image in someone else?
- Instead of beginning with: is this good for me? How do we begin with: based on what my friend, neighbor, partner, kid...according to what they have shared with me, is this good for them?

This week, what is one way you can practice hospitality with someone in your life? This week, how can you pay attention to how hurriedness, anxiety and fear impact your ability to practice hospitality? This week, how can you practice hospitality as a way to create room for people to change without forcing them to change?

