



Sermon Discussion Guide: Remember to Offer Milk

Series: *If You Give a Neighbor a Cookie*

Date: 09/21/2025

Scriptures: Romans 12:9–13; Acts 2:42–47 (NRSVue)

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[a] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[b] and ate their food with glad and generous^[c] hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Opening Prayer

God of welcome and abundance, thank You for loving us first and making space for us in Your heart and in Your kingdom. As we reflect on what it means to practice hospitality, open our eyes to the needs around us. Teach us to set the table with love, to offer what we can with joy, and to leave room for others to belong. Amen.

Introduction & Context

We've talked about saying "hello." We've explored curiosity as a posture of love. This week, we're leaning into what comes next—hospitality. In the children's book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, a simple gift opens up a deeper hunger. The same is true in our lives. Loving our neighbors means going beyond connection to care. Hospitality is how we offer the "milk"—whatever brings nourishment, dignity, and belonging to another person's life.





Discussion Questions

1. Defining Hospitality

- When you hear the word “hospitality,” what comes to mind?
- How does Paul’s description in Romans 12:9–13 challenge or affirm your understanding?

2. Cookie to Milk

- Think of a recent conversation or interaction you had with a neighbor. What “deeper need” might have been just beneath the surface?
- How can small acts of kindness lead to deeper relationships?

3. Looking to the Early Church

- Read Acts 2:42–47 aloud. What stands out to you about how the early Church lived in community?
- What elements of that kind of life feel possible for you right now?

4. Practicing Hospitality

The sermon highlighted three steps:

- *Set the Table (Anticipate)*
 - *Share the Table (Offer)*
 - *Leave Room at the Table (Include)*
- Which of these is easiest for you? Which is hardest? Why?

5. Barriers and Blessings

- What personal barriers (time, space, confidence, etc.) get in the way of offering hospitality in your daily life?
- What blessings have you experienced when someone else made space for you?

6. Jesus’ Table and Ours

- How does receiving from Jesus—the Host at the Table—equip you to be a host for others?
- What might it look like to extend His grace to a neighbor this week?



Application & Challenge: P.A.R.

Pray: Ask God to reveal one neighbor's deeper need—someone who could use more than just a “cookie.”

Act: Choose one simple way to offer “milk” this week—time, presence, help, a shared meal, or an encouraging word.

Reflect: How did it feel to move from connection to care? What did you notice about the other person—or yourself?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, You welcomed us while we were still far off. You prepare a table for us in the presence of our fears and failures, and You call us to do the same for others. Teach us to embody Your love through simple acts of care. May our hospitality not just meet needs but point to You, the Host of all. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Neighboring means more than being friendly—it means being *hospitable*. Every “cookie” opens the door to a deeper need. With God’s help, we can respond with joy, compassion, and room at the table.

This guide was developed from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.