



Get Better Week 5 – Hospitality Spiritual Formation Guide

Most groups are using the Get Better group material during this series, so this handout includes only the main points and scriptures from the message. If you'd like to use the booklet resource on your own, visit www.wschurch.org/better to get a digital booklet as a pdf. For questions about getting connected to a group, reach out to michaels@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- Acts 2:42-47 – “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”
- 1 Peter 4:8 – “Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.”
- 1 Peter 4:9 – “Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.”
- Titus 1:8 – “Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home.”
- **In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal. – Robert Karris**
- Luke 19:1-2 – “Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.”
- Luke 19:4-5 – “So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. ‘Zacchaeus!’ he said. ‘Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.’”
- Luke 19:6-7 – “Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. ‘He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,’ they grumbled.”
- Luke 19:8-10 – “Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!’ Jesus responded, ‘Salvation has come to this

home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

- **Our society seems to be increasingly full of fearful, defensive, aggressive people, anxiously clinging to their property and inclined to look at their surrounding world with suspicion, always expecting an enemy to suddenly appear, intrude, and do harm. -Henri Nouwen**
- **Our culture's bent toward the self, while hospitality requires selflessness.**
- **Hospitality (philoxenia) –To love the stranger.**
- **Leviticus 19:33-34—“Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”**
- **Mark 12:29-31 - “Jesus replied, ‘The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”**
- **Hospitality is when strangers become friends, and friends become family. -Rosaria Butterfield**
- **Most of us are simply too busy to practice hospitality.**
- **You may not be too sinful for Jesus to use you, but you may be too busy. – Jon Tyson**
- **Hospitality is not entertainment.**
- **If every Christian family in the world simply offered good conversation and hospitality around a table, once a week to neighbors, we would eat our way into the kingdom of God. - Alan Hirsch**
- **"Work and look hard for ways, for opportunities, to make little moves against destructiveness." Andre Trocme**
- **Ephesians 2:17-19 – “He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.”**