



# Live

PRACTICES OF  
HOSPITALITY AND CARE



## Hospitality

*"A life of hospitality begins in worship, with a recognition of God's grace and generosity. Hospitality is not first a duty and responsibility; it is first a response of love and gratitude for God's love and welcome to us."*<sup>25</sup>

*Christine Pohl*

### Description:

- Living a generous life where we welcome the stranger, bring dignity to all people, and demonstrate kindness in our lives is a missional practice. In a time where people have become more individualized, hospitality, especially in our homes, is even more important as a missional practice. Hospitality was a key missional practice for the Early Church. The Early Church 'gossiped the Gospel' in homes and we would benefit today from learning from their example.<sup>26</sup> By examining the Early Church, Pohl explores how hospitality is cultivated by beginning with a grateful Spirit, telling stories, nurturing a lifelong habit, communicating to others a welcome, and making time for personal rest and renewal.<sup>27</sup>

### Bible:

- Passages to explore are Matthew 25: 31-46, Mark 12: 30-31, John 14: 1-3, Acts 2: 46-47, Romans 15: 7, Hebrews 13: 1-2 (MSG)

### Reflection Questions:<sup>28</sup>

- Who models hospitality and welcome for you? Discuss
- How do you feel about having guests come to visit your home?
- How might Jesus want to use your heart and home as a shelter for others?
- Graham Hill states, "Churches that practice hospitality are courageous communities. Generous people fill these churches."<sup>29</sup> What are some ways Clovie can develop in being a hospitable people?

### Living the Practice:

- Choose one of Adele Calhoun's hospitality exercises below and participate in it and reflect on it with a trusted friend:<sup>30</sup>
  - Remember a time you have been deeply welcomed and received. Recount the circumstances and the way people reached out to you. Picture where Jesus was in this event. Let God touch you again with his welcome and love.
  - Develop the practice of praying for the people you invite into your home.
  - Be spontaneous. Hold a "potluck" meal at your home. Invite people to bring a meal to share. Don't try and make it perfect. Focus on the guests.
  - Have a "leftovers gathering." Invite people to bring what they have in their fridge. See what kind of meal happens. Tell your guests the main purpose of the meal is to be together.
  - Develop a list of conversation-starting questions. Focus on bringing a welcome and embrace and not a comparison.
  - When guests arrive at your home, greet them with your whole heart. Be present with them. When they leave, thank them for their company and farewell them with full eye contact and a hug if appropriate.

### Next steps Further Engagement:

- Read Christine Pohl's book, *Making Room*, to discover more about how the Early Church lived out hospitality.