



ONE ANOTHER

how we experience community

ONE ANOTHER

Holy Hospitality | Week 2 | Devan Bumstead

Romans 16:16 | NIV

“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

- Other references to the “kiss” in the NT | Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:26, 1 Pet. 5:14, Luke 7:45 (kissing is mentioned as something that should have been done customarily by the host but was neglected), Luke 15:20 (the father kissed the prodigal son), Matt. 26:48 (Judas kissed Jesus during his betrayal), Acts 20:37 (the elders kissed Paul farewell)

“THE MISUNDERSTOOD REASON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS STOPPED GOING TO CHURCH.”

by Jake Meador

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/07/christian-church-community-participation-drop/674843/>

Apple News: <https://apple.news/ABfA5rw5iQg22n9GmiSGwWg>

*Churches could model better, **truer sorts of communities**, ones in which the hungry are fed, the weak are lifted up, and the proud are cast down. Such **communities** might not have the money, success, and influence that many American churches have so often pursued in recent years. But if such **communities** look less like those churches, they might also look more like the sorts of **communities** Jesus expected his followers to create.*

Jake Meador

Biblical community is one of the major solutions to the problem with the church in America

Ephesians 2:11-22 | NIV

HOSPITALITY

philoxenia

- **philo** | brotherly love
- **xenia** | stranger, outcast, refugee, guest, visitor, outsider

Hospitality is..

- “Turning Strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family” | Rosaria Butterfield
- “Expressing the welcome of God the Father to all through tangible acts of love, ideally through giving food, shelter, and relationship.” | John Mark Comer

Scriptures on Hospitality:

Hebrews 13:1-3 | NIV

1 Peter 4:8-9 | NIV

1 Timothy 3:1-3 | NIV

HOSPITALITY BY FOOD

“In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.”

Robert Karris | *Eating Your Way through Luke’s Gospel*

THE SON OF MAN CAME...

- **MISSION**
 - Luke 19:10 | *...to seek and to save the lost*
- **METHOD**
 - Luke 7:34 | *...eating and drinking*

When you think of “evangelism,” what’s the first thing that comes to your mind?

“Radically ordinary hospitality – those who live it see strangers as neighbors and neighbors as family of God. They recoil at reducing a person to a category or a label. They see God’s image reflected in the eyes of every human being on earth... Those who live that radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God’s gift to use for the furtherance of His kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key.”

Rosaria Butterfield | The Gospel Comes with a House Key

LIFEGROUPS

“This table is different—it isn’t where sinners find Christ but where sons and daughters celebrate being found. Maybe someday instead of solemnly making our way to the tables, we should dance for joy! Maybe we should sing every born again song we know. Maybe we should tell our homecoming stories and laugh like people who no longer fear death. Maybe we should ask if anyone wants seconds and hold our little cups high to toast to lost sinners found and dead brothers and sisters alive.”

Philipp Yancey

Recommended Podcasts:

EATING AND DRINKING SERIES

<https://practicingthewayarchives.org/practices/eating-drinking>

John Mark Comer

Radically Ordinary Hospitality

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000561006046>

Neighboring

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000562783550>

Church Around A Table

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000564158899>

How To Become The Happiest Person Alive Pt. 1

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000565097065>

How To Become The Happiest Person Alive Pt. 2

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000565948847>

How The Meal Became The Mass Pt. 1

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000566783634>

How The Meal Became The Mass Pt. 2

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/john-mark-comer-teachings/id1592847144?i=1000567585819>

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: Go around and have each person share if they're an introvert and extrovert. If you heard Devan's story about attending a wild Egyptian party, if you were in that situation, would you *come alive* or *hide in your shell*?

READ: Romans 16:16

DISCUSS: New Testament writers command us to “give one another a holy kiss” 5 times in scripture (Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:26, 1 Pet. 5:14). Why do you think the writers wanted to include this in their letters?

READ: Ephesians 2:11-14

BACKGROUND: The dividing wall of hostility that Paul is referring to in Ephesians 2:14 is the wall that separated the Gentiles from entering the Temple. We know from history that Gentiles were threatened with death if they crossed that line into the inner courts.

READ: Ephesians 2:15-22

DISCUSS: What are the implications of Jesus destroying this “barrier”, allowing both Jews and Gentiles to be seen as fellow sons and daughters in the Kingdom of God? How radical of a shift must this have been for the Jews?

DISCUSS: Hospitality (*philoxenia* – loving the stranger as family) is a major theme in the Bible, especially in light of Jew and Gentile now being on equal ground. Share a few stories in the Bible from memory where Jesus displays *philoxenia*.

READ: Luke 19:10 & Luke 7:34

DISCUSS: Both of these scriptures begin with “The Son of Man came...” and is the only two times in Luke where this phrase is used. Devan suggested that Luke 19 was Jesus' **mission** and Luke 7 describes Jesus' **method** to accomplish his mission. Have you ever considered that Jesus' primary stratagem for reaching the lost was through “eating and drinking?” How have you previously thought about “evangelism”?

DISCUSS: If “eating and drinking” was, in fact, Jesus' primary method of evangelism, what would need to change in our lives to make Biblical hospitality a priority?

TO THE LEADER: If you're a LifeGroup leader, I can't encourage you enough to listen through the podcast series linked to above and perhaps even share it with the whole group to process together. I truly believe Biblical community, expressed through LifeGroups, is a vital part to experiencing the life Jesus wants us to live. In that podcast series, John Mark Comer has some great concepts for your group to wrestle through and may challenge you to change how your group functions. But most importantly, it casts a fresh and inspiring vision of what life in community can really look like. It may be just the thing your group needs to process to go to the next level.