



# Building Welcoming Relationships in Your Church



Explore biblical principles to create welcoming, loving relationships within your church community.

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## Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey on **Building Welcoming Relationships in Your Church**. As followers of Christ, the way we relate to one another within our church family is essential, not only for spiritual growth but for reflecting God's love to the world around us. This study is designed to inspire and equip you with biblical wisdom on how to foster an environment where everyone feels valued, accepted, and welcomed.

*Relationships* are at the heart of God's design. Throughout Scripture, God calls His people to love one another deeply, to bear with one another in patience, and to extend grace and hospitality freely. These principles are especially critical in the church setting — a spiritual family made up of diverse individuals, each with varying backgrounds, gifts, and needs.

Our focus is clear: **making your church more welcoming**. This requires intentional effort, rooted in God's Word and empowered by the Spirit. Each day, we will explore Scriptures that highlight how Jesus built community, how the early church practiced hospitality and unity, and practical ways you can help create an atmosphere of genuine belonging for everyone who walks through your church doors.

By immersing yourself in this study, you're stepping into a vital role of ministry. Whether you are a leader, volunteer, or member, your heart and actions can open doors to healing, connection, and transformation. Let's



commit to growing in grace and making our churches places where all feel embraced as family.

May this time deepen your love for others, sharpen your relational skills, and empower you to be a beacon of Christ's peace and welcome.





## Day 1: 🤝 The Foundation of Love



Day 1: 🧡 The Foundation of Love

## Your Verse

*John 13:34 – "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *1 John 4:7 – "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."*
- *Romans 13:10 – "Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."*



Day 1: 🧡 The Foundation of Love

## Devotional: Love: The Key to Welcoming Relationships

**Love is the cornerstone of all relationships, and especially so in the church.** Jesus' command to "love one another" is not a suggestion but a defining mark of His followers. This love is modeled on how He loved us — sacrificially, patiently, and unconditionally.

In making your church more welcoming, it starts here. Every greeting, every interaction, and every decision should flow from genuine love. This love sees beyond appearances and first impressions. It reaches out to the marginalized, the newcomer, and even those hard to relate to.

Consider how 1 John 4:7 reminds us that love originates from God Himself. As His representatives, the love we extend should mirror His perfect love, drawing people closer to Him through our kindness and acceptance.

Romans 13:10 poignantly states that love does no harm — it only builds up. A loving environment in church is one where no one fears rejection but instead finds safety, encouragement, and belonging.

Today, reflect on how well your heart aligns with this command. Are there barriers you unknowingly put up? Pray for a fresh outpouring of Christ's love through you, that your church may truly become a welcoming home.



Day 1: 🧡 The Foundation of Love

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do I embody the love Jesus commands in my daily church interactions?

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2. Are there individuals in my church I find hard to love? Why?

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3. What practical steps can I take to show sacrificial love to newcomers or those different from me?

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Day 1: 🧡 The Foundation of Love

# Journaling Prompts

1. List ways you have experienced God's love recently.

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2. Write about a time when someone showed you unexpected love and welcome.

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3. Journal your prayer asking God to help you love others more deeply.

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Day 1: 🍷 The Foundation of Love

## Prayer for Today

**Lord**, thank You for Your unfailing love that welcomes me no matter who I am. Help me to reflect that love genuinely to those around me, especially within my church family. Teach me patience, kindness, and a welcoming heart that breaks down walls and builds up Your kingdom. Use me as a vessel of Your grace to transform our church into a place of warmth and belonging. In Jesus' name, *Amen*. 🙌 ❤️ 🏠





## Day 2: 🏠 Hospitality: Opening Doors with Grace



## Your Verse

*Romans 12:13 – "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 13:2 – "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*
- *1 Peter 4:9 – "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."*



# Devotional: Joyful Hospitality: Welcoming with Open Hearts

**Hospitality is more than just opening doors; it's about opening hearts.** The Scriptures repeatedly call God's people to practice hospitality — not as an obligation but as a joyful opportunity to demonstrate God's love tangibly.

Romans 12:13 encourages us to share with those in need and to practice hospitality. In a church context, hospitality means reaching out to visitors and members alike, helping them feel at home — whether through a smile, a listening ear, or an invitation to join in community.

Hebrews 13:2 reminds us that sometimes those we welcome might be more significant than we realize. Every act of hospitality is an encounter with the presence of God in others.

1 Peter 4:9 invites us to offer hospitality without complaining. This means cultivating a giving spirit that delights in serving rather than viewing hospitality as a chore.

Embracing hospitality enriches our church by fostering connections, breaking down barriers, and expanding God's family. Today, consider ways you can practice hospitality that make others feel truly seen and loved.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How do I currently practice hospitality in my church community?

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2. Do I see hospitality as a joyful act or a burden? Why?

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3. In what ways can I more intentionally welcome strangers as friends?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a memorable time when you felt warmly welcomed. What made it special?

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2. Write down three practical ways you can extend hospitality this week.

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3. Journal about any fears or hesitations you have about reaching out to new people.

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Day 2: 🏠 Hospitality: Opening Doors with Grace

## Prayer for Today

**Father**, thank You for welcoming me into Your family with open arms. Help me to mirror that welcome to others through genuine acts of hospitality. Fill me with a heart that willingly serves, without complaint or hesitation. Teach me to see every opportunity to welcome someone as a chance to bless and be blessed. May our church radiate the warmth of Your grace. *Amen.* 🙏 🏠 ❤️







## Day 3: Bearing With One Another



## Your Verse

*Ephesians 4:2 - "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Colossians 3:13 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone."*
- *Galatians 6:2 - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*



Day 3: 🌱 Bearing With One Another

# Devotional: Patience and Forgiveness Build Church Unity

**In any community, differences and conflicts can arise, but God calls us to unity through patience and love.** Ephesians 4:2 highlights humility, gentleness, and patience as key to bearing with one another.

Being welcoming doesn't mean ignoring challenges but facing them with grace and forgiveness. Colossians 3:13 commands us to forgive as Christ forgave us, which is vital to maintaining peace and welcome within the church.

In Galatians 6:2, we are invited to carry each other's burdens — not only physical or emotional but relational. This mutual support fosters deep bonds and breaks down loneliness, helping everyone feel cared for.

As you reflect today, consider how patience and forgiveness can transform your interactions. What barriers exist because of impatience or pride? Ask God to cultivate in you the fruit of patience so that your church community becomes a refuge of love and understanding.



Day 3:  Bearing With One Another

## Reflect and Apply

1. Are there people in my church I struggle to be patient with? Why?

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2. How does forgiveness contribute to a welcoming church environment?

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3. In what ways can I help carry others' burdens this week?

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Day 3: 🌱 Bearing With One Another

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time someone showed you forgiveness when you least expected it.

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2. List qualities you need to develop to bear with others in love.

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3. Reflect on any grudges you might need to release for healthier relationships.

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## Day 3: 🌱 Bearing With One Another

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus**, teach me to walk humbly and patiently with others, bearing their weaknesses in love. Help me to forgive as You forgive and to offer grace freely. May I carry others' burdens with compassion, creating a church environment filled with unity and peace. Thank You for Your endless patience with me.

*Amen.* ❤️ 😊 🌿





## Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family



## Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family

## Your Verse

*Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 25:35 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."*
- *Leviticus 19:34 - "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself."*





## Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family

# Devotional: Embracing Strangers as Family in Christ

**Welcoming strangers is a radical act that reflects God's heart.** Hebrews 13:2 teaches us not to forget hospitality, emphasizing the sacred value of every person who comes through our doors.

Jesus, in Matthew 25, identifies Himself with strangers. When we welcome the unfamiliar, we welcome Him. This perspective transforms how we approach newcomers — not as outsiders, but as cherished members of God's family.

Leviticus 19:34 reminds Israel to love foreigners as their own people. This Old Testament call to inclusion applies to us as well, encouraging a church culture that embraces diversity and breaks down walls of exclusion.

Consider how your church welcomes those who might feel out of place due to culture, background, or life experience. Are there ways to make newcomers feel fully accepted and loved as family? Your attitude and actions can be God's hands and feet to those seeking belonging.



## Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do I typically respond to people who are different or unfamiliar in church?

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2. What practical ways can our church make strangers feel truly at home?

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3. Do I see newcomers as potential family in Christ, and how does that change my behavior?

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## Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family

# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you felt like a stranger welcomed you warmly.

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2. List fears or biases you might need to overcome to be more welcoming.

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3. Journal ideas for specific hospitality activities your church can implement.

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Day 4: 😊 Welcoming Strangers as Family

## Prayer for Today

**God of all people**, help me to see strangers through Your eyes — as beloved children created in Your image. Break down any walls in my heart and in our church that hinder us from fully embracing newcomers. Teach us to love as You love, welcoming all as family. Use us to build a community where everyone feels valued and at home. *Amen.* 🌍💗🙌





## Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility



Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility

## Your Verse

*Galatians 5:13 – "Serve one another humbly in love."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 2:3-4 – "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*
- *Mark 10:45 – "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."*



Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility

# Devotional: Humble Service Builds Welcoming Community

**Humility and service go hand in hand in creating a welcoming church.**

Galatians 5:13 calls us to serve one another humbly, with love as the motive.

Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us to put others above ourselves and consider their needs first. This mindset fosters unity and shows that everyone matters.

Jesus Himself modeled the greatest servant leadership, as Mark 10:45 says — He came to serve, not be served. Imitating Christ's example transforms our relationships, as serving others opens hearts and builds community.

When you approach church life with humility and a servant's heart, you create space for connection and belonging. This week, ask how you can serve others in practical ways that communicate welcome beyond words.



Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility

## Reflect and Apply

1. How does humility shape my willingness to serve in church?

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2. Do I seek to put others' interests before my own in relationships?

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3. What are some simple acts of service I can offer to make others feel welcomed?

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Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time serving someone changed your perspective.

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2. List areas where you can grow in humility and service.

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3. Journal a plan to serve someone new at church this week.

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Day 5: 🙏 Serving One Another with Humility

## Prayer for Today

Jesus, You are the perfect example of humble service. Help me to follow Your lead by setting aside selfish interests and serving with love. Open my eyes to the needs of others and give me a willing heart to serve without hesitation. Let my actions foster a welcoming culture that honors You. *Amen.* 🙌❤️✨





## Day 6: Promoting Peace and Unity



Day 6: 🕊 Promoting Peace and Unity


## Your Verse

*Romans 12:18 – "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Ephesians 4:3 – "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*
- *Colossians 3:15 – "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."*



Day 6:  Promoting Peace and Unity

## Devotional: Choosing Peace to Foster Church Unity

**Peace and unity are key indicators of a welcoming church.** Romans 12:18 challenges us to strive for peace with everyone, acknowledging that while we cannot control all relationships, we are responsible for our part.

Ephesians 4:3 urges us to make every effort to maintain unity — a deliberate, ongoing choice that requires humility, forgiveness, and empathy.

Colossians 3:15 calls us to let Christ's peace rule in our hearts, influencing how we respond to conflict and differences.

Welcoming relationships thrive in peaceful, unified environments. Today, evaluate your role in promoting harmony. Are there tensions you need to address? Ask God to empower you to be a peacemaker and bring His unity to your church family.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What conflicts or tensions exist in my church or relationships?

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2. How can I contribute to peace and reconciliation?

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3. Do I rely on Christ's peace to guide my interactions?

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Day 6:  Promoting Peace and Unity

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you helped bring peace to a conflict.

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2. List practical ways to pursue unity in your church.

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3. Journal a prayer asking God to make you a peacemaker.

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Day 6: 🕊️ Promoting Peace and Unity

## Prayer for Today

**Father of peace**, help me to live in harmony with everyone as much as it depends on me. Empower me to pursue unity and reconciliation actively. Let Your peace rule in my heart so that I might be a conduit of Your peace to others. May my church reflect Your eternal unity. *Amen.* 🕊️💛🏡







## Day 7: ✨ Reflecting Christ Together



Day 7: ✨ Reflecting Christ Together

## Your Verse

*John 17:21 - "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Corinthians 12:12 - "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."*
- *Ephesians 5:1-2 - "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love."*



Day 7: ✨ Reflecting Christ Together

## Devotional: Unity in Christ: A Bold Witness of Love

**Our ultimate goal is to reflect Christ's unity and love as one body.** In John 17:21, Jesus prays that His followers would be one, just as He and the Father are one. This deep unity reveals God's glory to the world.

1 Corinthians 12:12 reminds us that though we are many parts, we are one body in Christ — each with unique roles but interconnected in purpose.

Ephesians 5:1-2 calls us to follow God's example and walk in love. Together, our relationships become a living testimony of God's grace.

Reflect on how your efforts to build welcoming relationships contribute to this larger picture. When the church lives in visible unity and love, it becomes a powerful witness attracting others to Christ.

Pray for ongoing strength to carry this vision forward and celebrate the joy of serving and belonging in His body.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How does unity in our church reflect Christ to outsiders?

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2. In what ways do I contribute to or hinder this unity?

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3. How can I encourage others to love and serve as one body?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about your role in the church body and how you can serve better.

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2. Reflect on the importance of unity in sharing the Gospel.

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3. Journal a commitment prayer to pursue Christlike unity and love.

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Day 7: ✨ Reflecting Christ Together

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus**, unify us as one body, just as You prayed. Help me to reflect Your love and grace in every relationship within the church. Encourage and equip me to serve faithfully, valuing every member of Your body. May our unity be a shining light drawing many to You. *Amen.* ✨ 🙏 ❤️





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