

8 Love Makes Space

**By this everyone will know that you are
my disciples, if you love one another**

Every message in the Series will land the same way



- **Get ready to GROW and live life fully**
- **There are no spectators in the Kingdom.**
 - **Gospel Reference**
 - **Practical Application**
 - **Personal Accountability**
 - **One action**
 - **One person**
 - **One follow-up**
- **All message slides can be found at:
reboot.meetgodathome.com**

The Online Deck have hidden extra hidden slides as well

 Message Series –

- **“...By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**
 - John 13:35
- OVERALL QUESTION:
 - What does Love “LOOK” like from the outside?
- How will someone see that you “love one another”?
-  Get your Journal out or your phone to take notes!
 - reboot.meetgodathome.com

We Turned the Corner

We have weeded and turned over the soil.

Stopping destructive habits
(speech, burdens, forgiveness, gossip, pride)

Now we are growing something beautiful!

Love goes low.
Love builds courage.
Love makes space.

Opening Prayer

Take us on a journey...

Open our hearts.

Stop us from being offended
and start listening.

Help us grow.

Thank you that we have turned the corner!

Help us get comfortable
with being uncomfortable.

Review

- Every word you speak is either building the Church... Or burning it down. (Eph 4 / James 3)
- “Don’t do something for someone that God is expecting them to do! But always help with what they cannot do alone.” (Gal 6)
- Bear with one another... forgive one another... and above all these put on love. (Col 3:12–14, Eph 4:31–32)
- No more Triangles: Talk **Directly** To Them, Not About Them.
- (Matt 5:23–24 & 18:15)
- Love goes Low. (John 13:1–17, Luke 22:24–27)
- Love builds courage in others. (1 Thes 5:11 / Heb 10:24–25)

Last Time

 Mature love strengthens others.

 Love builds courage in others.

Jesus put courage into us.

Now we put courage into others.

Loving Accountability

- Last week we said: **Jesus put courage into us, so we put courage into others.** Let's check how we went.
- **Who did you tell about the message?**
- **Who encouraged you to do the challenge?**
- **Did you encourage three people?**
- One at church.
- One at home.
- One outside church.

Ice Breaker

When have you felt genuinely welcomed?

What made the difference?

Was it the food?

Or was it that someone made room for you?

Today's Big Idea

Love One Another #8

Many people are lonely, unseen, or outside the circle.

Hospitality is mature love intentionally making room.

Romans 12:13 / 1 Peter 4:9–10

Romans 12:13

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Mature Love says:

- “Come in.”
- “There is room for you.”
- “You are not invisible here.”

What Does Hospitality Mean?

Biblical hospitality is not mainly:

Fancy meals

Perfect houses

Expensive entertaining

Showing off

The word means “*love of strangers*”.

Hospitality is love making space for an outsider.

1 Peter 4:9–10

⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

- Hospitality is grace with a door handle.
- Notice Peter adds “without grumbling.” God is not only interested in the open door. He is interested in the open heart.

Without Grumbling

Hospitality is not:

“I suppose we have to.”

“Fine, but I hope they leave early.”

“Why do I always have to do this?”

Love does not just open the door.

Love opens the heart.

Hospitality vs Entertaining

 **Entertaining**

Tries to impress

Needs everything
perfect

Focuses on the host

Says: “Look at me.”

 **Hospitality**

Tries to welcome

Uses what it has

Focuses on the
guest

Says: “You matter.”

Two Related Words

Hospitality

Love of strangers

Opens the circle

Often outward
and evangelistic

Welcomes outsiders
in

Fellowship

Shared life

Deepens family

Primarily inside
the body

Strengthens
believers

Both Are Needed

Hospitality without fellowship can become
shallow.

Fellowship without hospitality becomes a
closed circle.

Healthy churches welcome outsiders
and strengthen insiders.

Love makes space.

Jesus Made Space

Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. (Luke 5:29–32)

Jesus stopped for Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:5–10)

Jesus welcomed children. (Mark 10:13–16)

Jesus noticed people that others walked past.

Jesus made space for the outsider. (“a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth.” Mark 7)

We Were All Strangers

- Sin does not merely make us imperfect.
- Sin separates us from God.
- “your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.” (Isa 59:2)

We Were All Strangers

- ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. (Eph 2:12-14)

The Gospel



We were not naturally insiders.

We were strangers.

We were far off.

God reached out to us.

But through Christ's sacrifice, God brought us near.

The Gospel is God making room for sinners (**us**).

- *²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)*
- The Cross opens the door!
- (All you have to do is ask for it! See me or someone afterwards if you want the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life)



Romans 15:7

“Therefore, welcome one another
as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.”

Christian hospitality is not just kindness.

It is a picture of the Gospel.

Do I Have the Gift?

Hospitality is a command for everyone! But...

There is also a special gift for **some**.

A person with the gift often naturally says:

“Come over.”

“Let’s make room for one more.”

“Nobody should sit alone.”

“Can we help them settle in?”

Signs of the Gift



You instinctively open your home.



You enjoy gathering people.



You notice newcomers.



You help strangers feel like family.



You often become relational glue in the church.

The Gift Is Not...

A perfect house.

Gourmet cooking.

A big dining room.

Being an extrovert.

The gift is making people feel wanted.

How Do I Use the Gift?

Use it to create places where discipleship can happen.

Host meals.

Welcome newcomers.

Include lonely people.

Gather neighbours.

Open a Bible study.

Support visiting missionaries.

Care for visitors.

Make church feel like family!

A Gift Increases Responsibility

A spiritual gift is not a trophy.

It is a tool.

It is not given for self-expression.

It is given for serving others.

“As each has received a gift, use it **to serve one another.**”

1 Peter 4:10

The Excuse

“I don’t have the gift of hospitality.”

Therefore...

“I don’t have to use it.”

That sounds spiritual.

But it is not biblical.

The Answer

Everyone has the command.

“Practice hospitality.”

Romans 12:13

“Offer hospitality.”

1 Peter 4:9

“Do not neglect to show hospitality.”

Hebrews 13:2

A gift is not a trophy. It is a tool. Some have the gift, but everyone has the command.

Same Pattern as Other Gifts that have Commands.

“I don’t have the gift of encouragement.”
But we are still told to encourage one another.

“I don’t have the gift of mercy.”
But we are still called to be merciful.

“I don’t have the gift of generosity.”
But we are still called to give.

Gifts do not cancel obedience.

Two-sided Coin

Heads

My Nature / The World

Closed circle

My seat

My people

My routine

My comfort

No room

Tails

What Jesus Wants

Open door

Open table

Open calendar

Open conversation

Open heart

Make space

Avoid the Two Ditches

Left Side - ✖ Performance Hospitality

Trying to impress people.

Waiting until the house is perfect.

Turning welcome into a show.

If hospitality has to be impressive,
most of us will never start.

Avoid the Two Ditches

Right Side -  Resentful Hospitality

Doing it with a grudge.

Overcommitting and becoming bitter.

Using hospitality to feel important.

Peter says: “without grumbling.”

Middle of the Road



Biblical Hospitality

Simple.

Wise.

Cheerful.

Generous.

Safe.

Real.

Not performance.

Not resentment.

It is Love making space.

Make Space Where?

Make space in your...

 **Heart**

 Table

 Schedule

 Conversation

 Church

 Home

Hospitality starts before the door opens.

Simple Examples

Invite someone for a cuppa.

Sit with a visitor.

Ask a real question and listen.

Include one more person.

Send a message.

Offer a lift.

Make room at lunch.

Outward Hospitality

Who is outside the circle?

A neighbour.

A workmate.

A newcomer.

A seeker.

A family member far from God.

Someone new to town.

Someone lonely.

Hospitality can be pre-evangelism with a kettle.

Family Hospitality (Fellowship)

Who in the body needs space?

A new believer.

A single person.

An elderly person/widow.

A tired parent.

A grieving person.

A teenager.

Someone who feels forgotten.

Fellowship becomes real when **everyone** is included.

A Word About Wisdom

Hospitality is not foolishness.

It does not mean ignoring safety, boundaries, or family needs.

Jesus loved everyone,
but He wisely did not entrust Himself to everyone.

(John 2:24–25)

Be wise.

But do not let fear close your heart!

The Early Church

- Day by day... They broke bread in their homes and received their food with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2:46)
- After Lydia believed, she said: "... come to my house and stay." (Acts 16:15)

Lydia Opened Her Home

Her home in Philippi became part of the mission. The church of Philippi started in her house.

So can yours.

Diagnostic Questions

Who is outside my circle?

Who needs a seat?

Who have I stopped noticing?

Am I waiting for perfect conditions?

Is God asking me to make room for one person?

Take Note



Mature love makes space.



Hospitality is love with room for others.



Fellowship deepens the family.



Hospitality opens the circle.

Call To Action

Make space for one person this week.

Do One Simple Act This Week:

Invite.

Include.

Welcome.

Listen.

Sit with.

Call.

Share a meal.

Offer a lift.

Do something practical for someone to welcome them.

Loving Accountability

Who are you going to share this message with that **WAS NOT** here today?

Who will encourage you to do it?

Who will ask if you did it?

Who will you make space for this week?

Conclusion

A disciple of Jesus:

- Speaks life
- Helps wisely
- Forgives, and where possible restores
- Speaks directly to the person
- Goes low
- Builds courage
- **Makes space**

Final Word

Jesus made space for you.

Now go and make space
for someone else.

Closing Prayer

Lord, teach us to love each other like You loved us.

Help us welcome people like You welcomed us.

Open our eyes to the lonely, the stranger, and the outsider.

Make our homes, tables, conversations, church, and hearts places of grace.

reboot.meetgodathome.com