

Wednesday, August 11

The key to hospitality is love—not as an emotion but as assertive, practical actions that reach out to care for others. Your willingness to apply the New Testament’s teachings on demonstrating this kind of practical love will determine the climate of your family, your local church, and your community.

Romans 12:9-21, Acts 2:42-47, and 3 John 1:1-14

- What makes you think the individuals within the Acts 2 believers’ community were practicing what Paul taught in Romans 12:9-21?
- Based on Romans 12, what loving action could you take this week toward someone who is difficult to love?

Thursday, August 12

As the people in Philippi responded to the gospel message through Paul, they opened their hearts and homes to him and his traveling companions. Entire households were changed. When the gospel enters a home through just one believer, a chain reaction begins that influences not only a family but also future generations.

Acts 16:11-40

- Paul and Silas were falsely accused, severely beaten and thrown into a dark, damp cell with other prisoners. Why did they trust the jailer to take them to his home? What was the result?
- When have you stepped out in faith and trusted another person’s offer of hospitality? What happened?

Friday, August 13

Paul was one of the most well-traveled apostles, completing three missionary journeys around the Mediterranean area. Roman inns of the time were known as dangerous, dirty, and flea infested, so traveling teachers, including Paul, depended on the local communities of believers for hospitality instead.

Acts 21:1-16 and 28:1-10

- In how many homes did Paul stay, as described by these verses? What acts of “unusual kindness” were done for Paul?
- Is it difficult for you to accept or receive help from others? Why or why not?

Saturday, August 14

Hospitality is bigger than opening your home; it has to do with opening your heart. The love you receive from Jesus flows out from you, and this enables you to welcome others as Jesus does. You may not like what you see or hear; your comfort zone may be pushed to the max. But the directive is clear—we all are to welcome the stranger.

James 2:14-26 and 1 John 3:16-24

- According to today’s Scriptures, how does faith go beyond lip service to action?
- John’s definition of love is found in 1 John 3:16-18. Rewrite it in your own words? How does it differ from the world’s “definition” of love?