Icebreaker: Share what you've experienced in the church that has made you feel truly welcome.

Title: The Walk – Love with Homemade Hospitality – Matthew 9:9-11

Concept: To become and make lifelong disciples, we must practice Biblical hospitality.

Discussion Prompts:

Read Leviticus 19:33-34, Romans 12:9-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-2 and Hebrews 13:1-2. Hospitality is "philoxenia" - love of the foreigner/outsider. Hospitality is a command in the Old Testament, a charge to the church, a characteristic of elders, and a kindness to others (including angels!). How do these passages challenge the way you view hospitality? Discuss what making hospitality your default posture toward others would look like in your day-to-day life.

Read 3rd John 5-8. Hospitality fuels Gospel Mission. How might the hospitality you practice have an impact beyond those you directly encounter? How can a lack of hospitality get in the way of spreading the Gospel?

Read 2nd Kings 4:8-17. Homemade Hospitality requires generosity. Why is it important to make room for hospitality in our schedules, budgets and priorities rather than simply offering what we have leftover? Discuss what would change if you viewed your resources (e.g., time, homes, finances etc.) as tools for ministry rather than convenience.

Read Matthew 9:12-13 and John 13:34-35. Homemade Hospitality remembers (prepares for or prioritizes) the outsider. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' heart for those who do not yet know him? How can your group or family intentionally prepare to welcome those people in?

Read 1 Peter 4:8-11. Homemade Hospitality reflects Jesus' love. Discuss the difference in practicing hospitality out of obligation and practicing Biblical hospitality because we've truly experienced the love of Jesus.

Spiritual Disciplines: Review our additional sermon study resources on the Church Center app at: *Church Center / Home / Sermon Resources* like: *Hope and Hospitality: A 6-Session Study*

Rules for Life: Practice Biblical Hospitality by: **(1). Noticing the Outsider:** Look for one person in your life who needs encouragement or connection and make a point to reach out; **(2). Making Room**: Evaluate where you can invite others into your life (e.g., your home, your schedule, etc.) and rearrange priorities to include them; and **(3). Inviting Jesus In:** Pray and ask Jesus to use your act of hospitality as a way to further His Kingdom.