

HOSPITALITY **AND** THE MISSION OF GOD



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Published by The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., Alpharetta, Georgia. A Southern Baptist Convention entity supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

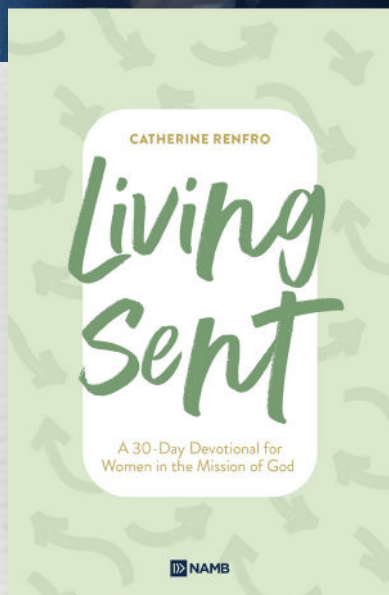
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You have a purpose.

You're called
to make Jesus
known—right
where you are.

Your home, neighborhood, work, and daily rhythms
aren't accidental. They're your God-given mission field.



Living Sent: A 30-Day Devotional for Women in the Mission of God

by Catherine Renfro
helps you:

- Root your life in Scripture
- Connect faith to everyday moments
- Pray with purpose for your mission field

*Live Sent—wherever
God has you.*



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INTRODUCTION: A NOTE FROM CATHERINE RENFRO

We often think of hospitality as entertaining guests or hosting a perfect gathering. But, as believers, hospitality is simply a meaningful way to make people feel seen, valued, welcomed, and included. It's about creating space for authentic relationships and engaging conversations, from our homes to our Sunday school classrooms to our neighborhood coffee shop. In these spaces, we can share and encourage others with the hope we have in Jesus.

Maybe you're feeling overwhelmed at the thought of opening up your home or schedule to receive others. If so, you're definitely not alone in that! The pressure to try to do it all perfectly might be creeping into your mind, leading you to feel unequipped and unable to engage in hospitality.

But let me encourage you. When it comes to hospitality, the goal is not perfection. The goal is presence. We don't need to do more or have more to practice hospitality as Christians. We just need to use what we already have to see, serve, and share the love of Jesus with those around us.

Throughout the pages of this resource, you will find practical, relatable scenarios where hospitality can be leveraged for the gospel, as well as next steps to help you engage in the mission of God where you already are.

Just imagine the eternal impact you can take part in as you open up the doors of your heart, home, and life to welcome people in and point them to King Jesus! Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Catherine Renfro

**National Director of Women's Evangelism
North American Mission Board**

CHAPTER ONE

**HOSPITALITY IN
YOUR HOME BY
EMILY POILLUCCI**

“Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.” **Romans 15:7**

Many of us think of hospitality as inviting guests into a pristine home. We may picture every nook and cranny being cleaned to the point that it looks like no one has ever set foot in the house (nor currently lives in it!). We may organize closets that no one will ever see and feel the need to apologize for things being “such a mess” even after hours of cleaning.

This mindset shaped so much of what I thought hospitality was supposed to look like: making sure everything was perfect before anyone ever stepped foot inside my home. I'd hide the messy, scrub away the evidence of a lived life, and put on the face of perfection when, in reality, I knew I couldn't be further from it.

How I viewed hospitality changed when a family from my church invited me to their home. It was nowhere close to pristine. From the front door window, I could see children's toys scattered around, couch cushions turned into fort walls, and laundry stacked up in the corner. I knocked on the door and was answered with a “Come on in!” shouted out from the kitchen. It was the most at-home and welcoming place I'd ever been invited to. And it made me feel like maybe I could belong there, too.

They didn't try to hide the evidence of a life being lived. There was no picking yourself up, putting on your best face, and pretending you lived in a show-ready home every day. Instead, they lived a simple, honest life and invited people into the everyday mess alongside them. It was in this home where I was discipled in my younger years.

Fast forward to when my husband and I got married. We knew exactly what kind of home we wanted to create: the kind that just wanted to bring people together. Why does this matter so much to us? Because we've seen firsthand just how the Lord can use our

homes for His glory and how gospel conversations can occur in someone's living room or around the dining room table.

When we invite people into our homes, we invite them to live life alongside us. An invitation into the home creates an environment where people can be comfortable, let their guard down, and share what's happening in their lives. Hospitality isn't about creating the perfect show house. Hospitality is about opening the door—even when it's messy, even when it's not perfect, and even when we feel inadequate to do so. Our homes are a resource that God gives us to bring people in and let them see what it looks like to follow Jesus. The Christian life isn't meant to be lived alone, but in community—not only when our homes are well put together and clean, but even when our trashcans are overflowing, too.

So, invite people over! Say yes when you can. Remember that simplicity can create comfort.

Be intentional in your efforts because even small gestures speak volumes. And let's use our homes for the sake of hospitality and with the gospel at the forefront of our minds.

CHAPTER TWO

**HOSPITALITY
AROUND THE TABLE
BY CATHERINE
RENFRO**

“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:46-47**

“We’ve never been invited into someone else’s home for dinner.” A family once shared these words with me when they came over to our home for dinner. Today, their words still ring loudly and weigh heavily on my heart. Inviting people to our home is normal for us, but I didn’t realize how abnormal it may be for others to receive such an invitation.

The Book of Acts tells us that the early church regularly gathered and shared meals together, and the Lord added to their number daily. Today, our dining rooms are a place where people can gather around the table, share life, build community, and encounter meaningful conversations that God can use to change lives.

Hospitality around the table looks like welcoming people in, meeting them where they are, and offering an inviting place for them to land. It doesn’t need to be complicated or over the top. It just needs to be authentic and genuine.

When people gather around the table, they share stories, laugh, and build trust. As trust is built, doors open for us to be able to share our lives with others (see 1 Thessalonians 2:8). And as we share our lives, we have the opportunity to speak about the hope we have in Jesus and encourage others to follow Him.

So, pick a date and invite people over for dinner! Invite friends who know Jesus and can help you carry the conversation, as well as those who don’t yet follow Christ. Plan a simple meal so you can focus on conversations around the table. You can even prepare some casual conversation starters to use as needed. When guests arrive, welcome them in and serve them well. Express gratitude and excitement to have them over. Before the meal begins,

let everyone know that you typically pray over your meal and would like to do so now. Then enjoy the time of food and fellowship together.

Around the table in our home, we've seen people wrestle through struggles, process hurt, ask questions about their purpose, and surrender their lives to Christ. As we leverage hospitality, we set the table for Jesus to do a work that only He can do in our lives.

CHAPTER THREE

**HOSPITALITY AS
A FAMILY BY
RONDIE WILKS**

“Let brotherly love continue. Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.” **Hebrews 13:1-2**

By God’s design, we set the tone for cultivating love and nourishing our families. Scripture instructs us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to teach our families to do the same. Jesus took it a step further, instructing us to love even our neighbors as we love ourselves. This is how hospitality begins in our homes and families.

When we practice hospitality, we reflect the heart of our relational God who went to the ultimate extreme so that we might be saved. Relationships matter; therefore, how we show love matters. Christ reached out to us when we were still strangers. And that is what hospitality looks like: showing love to a stranger. Jesus touched the leper, invited Zacchaeus in, and spent His entire ministry extending love and compassion where He saw a need. He even invites us to be in His family forever.

Over the years, my husband and I had the privilege of helping to raise “extra” sons. What I mean by that is that our three sons knew their friends were always welcome in our home. Scripture compelled us to live with an open door and teach them to do the same. Hospitality was (and is!) a practical way for us to plant seeds for the gospel.

One friend named Tristen spent a lot of time in our home. He even joined us on some family vacations and continued to spend time with us long after our boys had moved out. Today, Tristen is a husband, father, and ministry leader at our church. All those years ago, our family welcomed him into our home, and our lives are richer because of it! When you practice hospitality as a family and plant gospel seeds, you never know what fruit God may yield in the future.

So, start by loving your family well and teaching them to extend Christlike hospitality to those within your sphere of influence. Keep in mind those who may not have a place to go during the holidays or in times of need. As your family builds these relationships and extends hospitality to others, engage in conversations that share your gospel hope. And then be expectant of all that the Lord can do through your faithful hospitality as a family.

CHAPTER FOUR

**HOSPITALITY BEYOND
YOUR HOME BY
YESSENIA JIMENEZ**

“Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.”

Romans 12:13

For many years, I believed hospitality was synonymous with perfectly decorated tables, fine china, coordinated linens, and elaborate meals. The thought of hosting felt exhausting and overwhelming. As a full-time employee, pastor’s wife, and mom, I could not imagine constantly preparing my home to meet this picture-perfect standard. Somewhere along the way, I had unknowingly allowed culture to define hospitality for me instead of allowing God to shape my understanding of it. What once seemed beautiful eventually became intimidating, and I quietly struggled with the idea that I was somehow failing in an area God had placed on my heart.

Then one day, something clicked. I realized hospitality and hosting are far less about impressing people and far more about helping people feel seen, valued, and considered. Jesus Himself modeled hospitality through presence. He made room for people, listened to them, and met them where they were.

As my perspective shifted, so did my approach to hospitality. I remember crying out to God, saying, “Lord, I want to host, but I don’t know how. I want to host because I know You have called me to host, but I’m struggling with it.” And in His kindness, He showed me that hospitality was never confined to the home. Hospitality is not measured by spotless counters or matching decorations. Hospitality is measured by the condition of our hearts as we serve others faithfully. It is about creating space for people to feel loved and welcomed. That revelation changed everything for me. I no longer felt pressure to create an unrealistic environment. Instead, I began looking for simple and meaningful ways to connect with others. I discovered that I could still practice hospitality without sending my family away for the evening or spending hours getting my home just right. I started meeting people at coffee shops, inside the church building, or at a restaurant for lunch.

Those moments became opportunities for genuine conversations and intentional connections.

Since then, I have especially grown to enjoy having coffee with people I've recently met. Meeting in a public place feels less intimidating to me. The focus is no longer on the presentation, but on intentional time with the people. I once met with a 17-year-old girl who mentioned that no one had ever taken her out for coffee just to get to know her. Her words stayed with me. Sitting across from her in a coffee shop, listening to her heart, and making space for conversation reminded me that small acts of hospitality can leave a lasting impact on a person's life. In that moment, God confirmed to me that hospitality was never about location, elegance, or perfection but about presence.

Hospitality goes far beyond the walls of our homes. It can happen over coffee, during a lunch break, at church, on a walk, or anywhere someone feels welcomed and seen. The heart behind hospitality is what matters when we show up, listen well, and remind someone that they matter to God and to His people.

So, identify someone God has crossed your path with. Invite them to join you for coffee, a meal, or a walk. Start a conversation to get to know them better. Be curious, ask questions, and keep the conversation going. Listen for ways you can relate to them, respond to them, and serve them. And prayerfully watch as Jesus works in your life and in theirs, too!

CHAPTER FIVE

**HOSPITALITY IN
THE WORKPLACE BY
C.J. MERRILL**

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10

We often think about hospitality as being centered around the home, but what about the other places where we spend time? For many women, much time is spent at their places of work. There may be a tendency to simply put our heads down and get the job done, but how can we, as followers of Christ, create an environment in our workplaces that reflects the warmth and hospitality of our homes?

Hospitality in the workplace is more than bringing donuts to the break room. Hospitality at work is being present and valuing those we interact with on a regular basis.

So, invite others to join you for lunch or coffee. Ask people about themselves. Listen to them share about their lives outside of work. Have a notepad or journal handy to jot down things that you'd like to ask them about later. Keep in mind that the ability to remember what they tell you is a superpower. Celebrate their wins, and maintain a positive attitude when things aren't going well for them. Offer encouragement through the hope you've found in the gospel.

Seek out insight and wisdom from those who have been there longer than you. There is nothing more empowering than someone seeing your value and inviting you to join them. Many long-term employees forget the value they are able to offer through the wisdom of their experience. So, ask them to share their wisdom with you.

You can also share what you've learned with newer employees. Consider the things that you wish you had known when you began your position. Recall when you were new, and do the things you wish had been done for you.

There is nothing like building community to open doors for the gospel. As you build these relationships, prayerfully look for ways to share gospel truths with those around you. By being a steady, Christlike presence in the lives of those you work with and serve, you'll plant gospel seeds through hospitality and intentionality.

CHAPTER SIX

**HOSPITALITY AND
COMPASSION BY
TRACY SPEERS**

“When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.” **Matthew 9:36**

Growing up in an atheist home, I never learned about God or had any understanding of faith. I was lost, broken, and searching for meaning. I started going down the path of drugs, alcohol, and parties. But thankfully, the Lord had different plans for my life.

I met a man who stood out from everyone else around him. His name was Darryl, and he was kind and respectful. There was something different about him that I could not explain. We became close friends, and I continued noticing the comforting peace and strong character he carried with him everywhere he went.

After a few mutual friends attended Darryl's church, I immediately looked at him and asked, “Why didn't you invite me?” Deep down, I realized I wanted to go. He admitted that he didn't think I'd be interested or enjoy it very much. The following week, however, I attended church for the first time.

Walking into that church completely changed my life. People were smiling, welcoming one another, and genuinely happy to see each other. At first, I felt uncomfortable and unsure of myself. But something inside me shifted. These people welcomed me, too, even though I was new. And that night, for the first time in my life, I encountered the love of my Heavenly Father. I realized that God loved me exactly as I was—broken, hurting, and in desperate need of a Savior.

Darryl and I eventually married and have spent over 20 years ministering and sharing the gospel through church planting. Because of my story, hospitality is deeply personal to me. We constantly ask ourselves what someone experiences when they walk through the doors of our church: Do they feel welcomed, loved, and seen? Are we creating an environment where people can encounter Jesus the same way I did?

We believe that when someone walks into our church—far from God, questioning whether any of this is real, and looking nothing like Jesus—they should immediately know one thing: They belong here. They do not have to clean themselves up, pretend to have it all together, or fake their faith in order to be accepted. They can come broken, searching, messy, and real. The Gospels show us again and again that Jesus welcomed people before they had everything figured out.

As people begin to experience genuine love, acceptance, and community, their hearts begin to open. We trust that as they encounter the love of Jesus, they will experience healing, restoration, identity, and lasting transformation through the power of the gospel. Then, little by little, they become more like Jesus in the ways they live, love, and lead their lives. Remember to meet people where they are, replacing assumptions and judgments with compassion and care. Listen well, seek to meet the needs that are shared with you, and remember that you're only able to share the love of Christ because He loved us first.

CHAPTER SEVEN

**HOSPITALITY IN A
CHURCH PLANT BY
RIVERS PARTIN**

“We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” **1 Thessalonians 2:8**

My own story of meeting Jesus began when strangers showed up in my neighborhood and welcomed me. Before I understood the gospel clearly, I experienced the kindness and hospitality of a church committed to living on mission. They invited me in, learned my name, listened to my story, and made me feel like I belonged before I ever believed in the gospel they shared with me.

Looking back, I see so clearly that the hospitality of this small local church became one of the first ways I encountered the love of Jesus. This understanding has shaped the way I think about hospitality, especially in the context of church planting.

Hospitality has always been close to the heart of God. Throughout Scripture, we see God welcoming the outsider, drawing near to the stranger, and making a place for those who are far from Him. Hospitality is not simply creating beautiful spaces or hosting impressive gatherings; it's making room in our lives for people who may not look like us, act like us, or think like us. It's choosing to move toward people with the same grace and welcome that Jesus has extended to us. It's sharing our lives, our presence, and our time so that the lost might get to experience the greatest gift of all: eternal life in Christ.

In a church plant, hospitality becomes especially powerful because many people who come to our gatherings walk in carrying questions, wounds, loneliness, and even fear. Many are searching for belonging long before they know they are searching for God. Hospitality helps remove barriers and creates space for people to encounter the love of Christ through His people, the church.

Women on church planting teams have a unique opportunity to shape this culture. Hospitality is not about perfectly decorated spaces or polished events. It is about creating environments

where people feel known, valued, and safe enough to take their next step toward Jesus. Sometimes, this looks like sitting with the person who came alone, welcoming children warmly, or being intentional to look for the person who may feel like they're on the outside.

Sometimes, it looks like inviting neighbors into your home to enjoy a simple meal. Jesus regularly welcomed the people who were often overlooked by others: the outsider, the sinner, the poor, the weary, the foreigner, and even the socially awkward. In a world increasingly marked by division and isolation, hospitality is a powerful gospel tool. When people experience authentic welcome from the people of God, they often begin to believe that perhaps they, too, could be welcomed by God Himself.

So, pray for eyes to notice people who feel unseen, uncomfortable, or disconnected. Arrive early and stay late to engage those who may be in need. Sit with someone new before choosing to sit with close friends. Follow up by sending a text of encouragement or a coffee invite to someone you'd like to get to know better.

Learn and remember names, stories, and small details about people's lives. Create environments where questions and honest conversations are welcomed and nurtured. Include families and children warmly and intentionally. Offer simple hospitality without waiting for your home or life to feel "perfect." Work to create spaces where everyone shares responsibility for a culture of welcome and belonging.

Remember that biblical hospitality is not about impressing people; it's about offering a loving welcome that points people to Jesus. Hospitality can feel small or ordinary, but God often uses ordinary faithfulness to do extraordinary kingdom work. A warm greeting, a meaningful conversation, a saved seat, or a sincere invitation can become the very thing God uses to help someone move from stranger to friend to part of your spiritual family, with new life in Christ!

CHAPTER EIGHT

**HOSPITALITY AND
EQUIPPING OTHERS
FOR SERVICE BY
CATHY YOUNG**

“And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

Hospitality not only opens doors for us to serve others, it also opens doors for us to equip others in hospitality. As much as I love opening my home to host gatherings, I've discovered it is even more impactful when I involve others. We can share what we've learned and use our gifts and experiences to teach others how to do the same. This has happened in a few different ways in my own life.

After a dinner gathering in my home, three university students approached me with an idea. They had been building friendships with several international students and sharing the message of Christ with them. These students asked if I would host a dinner for their new friends. I gladly agreed, and what began as a simple gathering at my home soon grew into a monthly outreach involving multiple host homes and students from many nations. Through these times of fellowship, many international students at our local university experienced real belonging in a loving environment and heard the gospel.

Another opportunity to equip others in hospitality came after I met a Somali woman. I helped her get to her prenatal appointments and learned she had never had a baby shower. So, I reached out to others and assembled a small group of women to help host a baby shower for her. This event created an opportunity for us to show Christ's love to this new mother while sharing a few much-needed items with her. Together, the hosting team and I learned what it meant to put compassion in action and to share the gospel in a new and tangible way.

So, as you practice generosity with your home and resources, look for ways to involve and equip others in the work of hospitality. Some people may simply need to be invited in and learn before

they feel confident practicing hospitality on their own. Encourage them to step forward and be willing to serve when opportunities arise. Then, watch their relationships with Christ grow as they experience their calling to hospitality unfold.

CHAPTER NINE

**HOSPITALITY AND
EVANGELISM BY
JANECE WARNER**

“But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” **1 Peter 3:15**

One of the most effective ways to reach and evangelize the lost is to invite them into your world, where the light shines brightly, and the Holy Spirit resides. Find a need—however small it may be—that you can help meet with gospel intentionality. Do they need friends? Do they need a stress-free day away from a hard family situation? Is their pantry usually empty at home? Do they need a place to feel safe? Always be prepared to serve however you can. Find simple solutions to meet the needs of the people you’re seeking to serve.

One of the ways our family does this is by inviting young adults into our home. As I put drinks in the fridge or games in the garage, I pray that God will open doors for me to share Christ with those who enter our home.

Those who visit often ask questions, such as: “I have never seen that many board games in my life! Why in the world would anyone have so many?” and “The fridge in the garage is always full, and the drinks are always cold. Do you just love that many drinks?” There’s also, “Do you mind if I grab a snack?” or “The stack of blankets upstairs is insane. Are you trying to cover an army?”

After a few visits, the questions start to change, reflecting transformation in the relationship: “Do you have a minute to talk?” or “What do you think I should do about my job or about school?” I also hear things like “Can I have your recipe for chicken enchiladas?” and “Do you already have ingredients in your house I can use to cook something?”

Before I know it, the conversations become related to my prayer for gospel conversations to occur. They are direct invitations into our guests’ hearts and minds: “How do you know that God is really real?” “I don’t like church. Why do you always go?” “I noticed

you always talk about deep spiritual things with your kids. I love it when I'm over and get to participate." And the best one of all? "I think I'm ready to talk about my relationship with Christ."

You, too, can extend hospitality to those without Christ. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share His love with those who are far from Him. Trust Him to place you in the right situations. Start small by giving what you already have and create an environment where the love of Christ is shown.

Be generous and willing to sacrifice. Never let selfishness limit the work Christ is doing in you through His extravagant generosity. As others begin to confide in you and ask questions, be trustworthy. Keep their confidence. Give your time and continue to be present, for the long haul.

The ministry of hospitality is beautiful. It is taking the things that are already within your arena and comfort zone and sharing them with others. It is giving a piece of yourself so that they can see Christ. You will never regret being hospitable to others. Let Christ use you. It will thrill your soul and impact eternity.

**GATHER
RESOURCES BY
CHRISTA SKIPPER**

APPENDIX

As you consider the relationship between hospitality and the mission of God, you may be wondering where and how you can host an intentional gathering to show and share the love of Christ with others. Whether it's in your home, at your church, in your workplace, or at another location, you can use the following resources to host a gathering that focuses on the promises of God. Use them as a starting point, and adapt them to fit your guests, location, budget, and ministry context.

BEFORE THE GATHERING:

- Choose your date and location.
- Consider your guest list. Invite attendees who do not yet follow Christ, as well as believers who can welcome and encourage others.
- Invite your guests by sending a simple text message or digital invitation. Ask attendees to RSVP in advance so that you can prepare accordingly.
- Plan your meal or dessert menu. The following recipes are included as suggestions, not requirements. Feel free to serve whatever meal, dessert, or refreshments that would work best for your guests and setting.
- Pray over your time together. Before guests arrive, take time to pray for each of them by name. Ask God to help you welcome, listen, connect, and see the opportunities He is giving you to share the hope of His gospel.

RECIPES FOR THE GATHERING:

Cobb Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing (serves 8)

Salad Ingredients

- 8 cups mixed green lettuce
- 8 oz. cherry tomatoes, halved
- 8 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
- 1 (10-oz.) can fire-roasted corn, drained
- 2 avocados, thinly sliced
- 1 large cucumber, halved and sliced
- 1½ cups strawberries, quartered
- 6 oz. feta cheese, crumbled

Dressing Ingredients

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ⅓ cup whole milk
- ¼ cup + 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 3 tablespoons + 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Directions

- Wash and dry the lettuce, then place it in a large bowl. Next, arrange the tomatoes, bacon, eggs, corn, avocados, cucumber, strawberries, and feta on top of the lettuce.
- To make the dressing, place all ingredients in a separate bowl and whisk until well combined. Then, transfer the dressing to a jar, seal with a lid, and refrigerate until ready to serve.

RECIPES FOR THE GATHERING:

Chicken Salad (serves 8)

Ingredients

- 6 cups cooked chicken (about 1½ rotisserie chickens), chopped
- 1½ cups red grapes, quartered
- ¾ cup pecans, chopped
- 2–3 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons red onion, finely chopped
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- 6 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons dried dill weed (or 2½ tablespoons fresh dill)
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- Bread of your choice (such as toasted sourdough, croissants, or crackers)

Directions

- Pull the meat from the rotisserie chickens, then chop it and place it in a large bowl. Next, add the grapes, pecans, celery, and red onion, and stir to combine.
- In a small mixing bowl, stir together the mayonnaise, balsamic vinegar, sour cream, lemon juice, dill, salt, and pepper until well combined. Add the mayonnaise mixture to the chicken mixture, and stir until combined. Add more mayonnaise, salt, or pepper to taste.
- Serve with your choice of bread, croissants, or crackers.

RECIPES FOR THE GATHERING:

Lemon Cheesecake Cups (serves 8)

Ingredients

- 12 full-size graham crackers, plus additional for garnish
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 8 tablespoons butter (1 stick), melted
- 3 (8-oz.) cream cheese bars, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- ½ cup lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed, plus additional for garnish
- 1 lemon, cut into 8 wedges, for garnish
- 8 small serving containers, such as clear cups, bowls, or jars

Directions

- Crush the graham crackers and mix them with the sugar. Next, add the melted butter and stir until well combined. Divide the graham cracker mixture evenly among the containers, and press it gently into the bottom of each.
- Using a hand or stand mixer, beat the cream cheese for about 3 minutes, until light and fluffy. Add the lemon juice, and beat until combined. Next, add the powdered sugar and salt, and continue beating until fully incorporated.
- Using a rubber spatula, gently fold in the whipped topping. Divide the lemon cream cheese mixture evenly among the serving containers, and spread it over the graham cracker crust.
- Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight. When ready to serve, top each cheesecake cup with a dollop of whipped topping and crushed graham cracker crumbs. Garnish with a lemon wedge.

AS THE GATHERING BEGINS:

- Welcome each attendee as she arrives.
- Enjoy fellowship together over a meal or dessert.
Create space for casual conversations to take place among attendees.
- After your meal, incorporate an icebreaker activity or a few get-to-know-you questions to help everyone connect. The following “What’s on Your Phone?” activity may be helpful.

ICEBREAKER: WHAT’S ON YOUR PHONE?

After your meal, invite guests to take part in this simple cell phone scavenger hunt. This activity can help women laugh together, discover the things they have in common, and begin conversations with one another.

Search your phones to see who has the following:

- A vacation selfie
- A contact whose name begins with the letter “Y”
- An Instagram feed
- A battery life greater than 95%
- A battery life less than 5%
- More than 100 unread emails
- A lock-screen image of a pet
- An alarm that is still turned on
- A ringtone that is a song
- A screenshot you forgot you had
- A text from your host
- A text from more than a year ago
- A to-do list
- More than 1,500 photos
- A call made before 7 a.m. today
- A picture of a rainbow

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“For every one of God’s promises is ‘Yes’ in him. Therefore, through him we also say ‘Amen’ to the glory of God.” – 2 Corinthians 1:20

Tonight, our conversation centers around the topic, “Yes and Amen.” This idea comes from 2 Corinthians 1:20 and reminds us that God’s promises are trustworthy because they are fulfilled in Christ.

[Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 aloud.]

Throughout Scripture, God makes promises to His people. We can trust in these promises because we can trust the God who made them. But trusting God can be difficult when we are waiting for something we cannot yet see.

How do you handle waiting? Not just waiting for a customer service call, a table at a restaurant, or an Amazon package to arrive—but waiting for something to happen in your life.

As you wait, do you tend to feel anxious, patient, nervous, or frustrated?

Is there something you are waiting for right now? Do you ever find yourself wondering if it will actually happen?

[Share your own answers as you encourage women to share theirs. Examples may include a job, a diagnosis, a difficult family situation, or another circumstance they are currently walking through.]

Do you ever feel like you have to figure everything out yourself—like the outcome depends entirely on you?

Waiting patiently doesn’t always come naturally. When we don’t know what God is doing or when He will act, we can be tempted to search for quick answers or take matters into our own hands.

But God's faithfulness does not depend on our ability to understand His timing.

Every promise God makes is true, and His promises find their "yes" in Christ. Because we have seen God's faithfulness throughout Scripture and ultimately in Jesus, we can trust Him even when we cannot yet see what He is doing.

We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds it. We can look back at God's faithfulness and trust Him with what we are waiting for today.

DISCUSS THE PROMISES

Use the following promises and Scripture passages to guide your conversation. Invite guests to find each passage in their Bibles (or on their Bible apps), read it together, and discuss what it means for everyday life.

SEVEN PROMISES OF GOD

I will be with you.

Read: Genesis 28:15; Deuteronomy 31:6

God promises to be present with His people. Anyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation is invited into His family—now in the present and in the future, for all eternity.

Discuss: How might the promise of God's presence encourage you in a time of need?

I will strengthen and help you.

Read: Isaiah 41:10

We may not always understand why God allows—or doesn't allow—certain things that take place in our lives. However, we can

trust His character, and we can rely on His presence to be with us. God promises to strengthen and help His people as they walk through difficult circumstances.

Discuss: Has there ever been a time when you recognized God's care or protection in your life?

I will be your strength.

Read: Psalm 46:1-3

In times of hardship and trial, God promises to be our refuge and strength. We can turn to Him when we feel overwhelmed, and we can trust Him to sustain us as we walk through difficult circumstances.

Discuss: Is there anything you need God's strength for today?

I will provide for you.

Read: Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19

God promises to provide for the needs of His children. As we look back on His past faithfulness, we can continue trusting Him with our current and future needs.

Discuss: How has God been faithful to meet your needs in the past?

I will give you peace.

Read: John 14:27; Philippians 4:7

In the midst of chaos and confusion, we can bring our burdens and concerns to God and trust Him with what we cannot control. Scripture describes the peace of God as a peace that "surpasses all understanding." This means He can give us peace, even when it seems impossible.

Discuss: How have you experienced God's peace in a difficult circumstance?

I will always love you.

Read: 1 John 4:9–10

God demonstrated His extravagant love for us by sending His Son to bear the punishment for our sins. Through Jesus, we see the depth of God's love and can rest in the assurance that His love does not change.

Discuss: Why can it be difficult for us to fully understand God's perfect, unconditional love?

I will give eternal life to all who believe.

Read: John 3:16; 1 John 2:25

God offers eternal life to everyone who places their faith in Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus made a way for us to be reconciled to God and receive the promise of everlasting life.

Discuss: Have you placed your faith in Jesus and received the hope of eternal life?

A REMINDER OF GOD'S PROMISES

Discuss: Of these seven promises, which do you find the most difficult to wait for or believe?

We have all looked up and seen a rainbow in the sky. In Genesis 9:13–16, God gives the rainbow as a sign of His covenant with Noah and His promise never again to destroy the earth with a flood.

The rainbow can remind us that God keeps His promises.

And God's faithfulness is ultimately demonstrated through Jesus.

God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him and receive the promise of salvation through Christ.

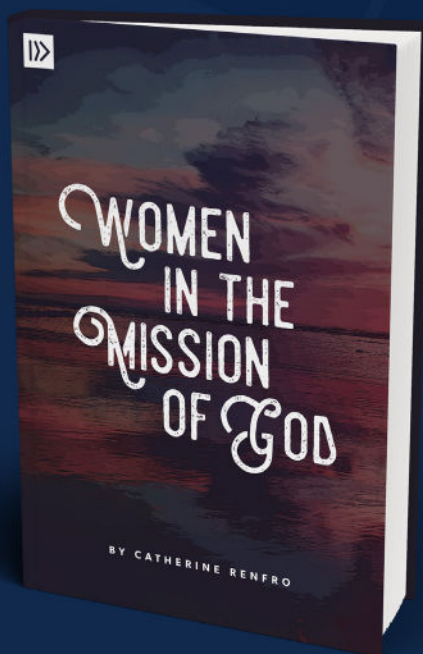
Discuss: What is one of God's promises you want to remember and trust as you leave tonight?

AFTER THE GATHERING

As you say goodbye, continue looking for opportunities to nurture the relationships you invested in tonight. Hospitality doesn't end when the gathering does. A follow-up text, an invitation to grab coffee, or a simple check-in can continue the relationship and create future opportunities to share the hope you have found in Jesus.

The goal was never to host the perfect gathering; instead, the goal has always been to be present, to make room for others to feel seen and heard, and to trust that God can use our ordinary faithfulness for the good of His kingdom.

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