



**Podcasts** (*the links are from apple because that is where I listen to my podcasts! Apologies if you use a different provider but you should be able to search for them.*)

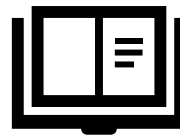
[Emmaus Rd Podcast, Crossroads: The Way of Encouragement](#)

[Soul Survivor Watford: Hospitality](#)



**Deeper Dive: Offer hospitality, encourage and greet one another with a holy kiss**

These resources are to help you go deeper as we explore together how we are called to be with one another as the people of God. There's lots of thoughts, ideas and resources here so use whatever is helpful and may you be blessed as you go deeper in your relationship with Jesus and one another. You might find them useful to study alone, or want to study them with others – in discipleship groups, families, couples or with a friend.



[Going Deeper: Scripture](#)

This week's focus on hospitality, encouragement and greeting one another

with a holy kiss all come together to think about the space we make for one another. Think about the expression 'feeling 10 foot tall', when we encourage one another, offer hospitality and greet each other, we enable one another to be seen, heard and more confident to be the people God has called us to be. Prioritising these ways of interacting releases the gifts God has given to each and builds up the body of Christ. See how those on the road to Emmaus said "Were not our hearts burning within us...?" after spending time with Jesus, and are then totally transformed from despairing companions to evangelists.

Hospitality is more than food.

Encouragement is more than words.

Greeting is more than a kiss. It is all about

how we approach one another, make space for one another and delight in one another. Hospitality isn't about productivity or efficiency, it is all about relationship. Consider Genesis 18, where Abraham offers hospitality to three visitors, interpreted to be him encountering the Holy Trinity. It begins with Abraham serving the visitors food and water, but from this interaction, from this time together comes deep relationship between Abraham and the Lord with Abraham taking up space and negotiating with the Lord.

As we spend this week thinking about hospitality, encouragement and greeting, perhaps study Genesis 18, imaginatively placing yourself in the place of Abraham. What hospitality would you offer to the Lord? What space would the Lord give to you? What blessings and encouragements would the Lord lavish on you?

#### Going Deeper: Reflection or Discussion and Prayer

- What are the best experiences of hospitality I have received? What impact did it have?
- As we think about encouraging one another, how comfortable do I feel doing this? Am I clear, specific and genuine in my encouragement? Do I focus on what somebody does, personal qualities or both?
- Pause and pray for specific prophetic encouragements over people in our church and your life, asking 'Lord, what do you long to say to...'
- How comfortable am I with greeting one another with a holy kiss?

- Who in our church and wider community do we need to offer hospitality to? Who needs more space for their voice to be heard and presence welcomed so our hospitality is more than fellowship, but justice too?

#### Going Deeper: More Resources

Each of us learns differently so here are a variety of resources that you might want to use to help you encounter God's love more deeply, grow in your love of God and yourself and enrich your commitment to love your neighbour.



#### **Music**

'Holy Spirit, you are welcome here'  
by Elevation

'Make Room' by Community Music

#### **Books**

'The Shack' by Wm Paul Young



A novel exploring an encounter between Mack and the three persons of the Trinity over the course of a weekend as he experiences the hospitality of God.

'Reaching Out' by Henri Nouwen

Here Henri Nouwen details the moves we need to make in our spiritual lives and the key one related to this theme is from hostility to hospitality and unpacks how we can move from an appearance of hospitality to genuine hospitality, allowing space for one another and God.