

# faith at HOME



As a Church, while we are living in Physical isolation from one another we are praying now more than ever that our homes can be places of ministry where God's love is on display. We've provided this quick resource to help you think through some practical ways that you can open your home to your friends and neighbors.

## READ

1. As we get started today, please read **Romans 12:10–13**. What might it look like to “pursue hospitality”?

Author **Rosaria Butterfield** explains:

"All Christians are called to practice hospitality in their homes. Households run by single Christians are just as vital, necessary, and needed in the practice of hospitality as those run by married people. Households without children and households with children each model Christ's blessings. The redeemed rich and the redeemed poor and everyone in between are called to practice Christian hospitality in households, dorm rooms, bus stops, and community gardens. We are all called to be hospitable and love our neighbors, and we all can minister to others where we live.

## REFLECT

Take just a few moments and talk with others in your home today around the following thoughts.

2. Tell us about a time when someone in your family went out of their way and showed you that they love you deeply? How about from a friend? (If you are in a family with multiple children, it might be helpful to form the question more around “When was a time that your brother/sister showed you that they love you deeply?”)
3. How does it make you feel when you experience love from a friend or family member? How much you are thankful for the way they have loved you?

Take a few minutes and brainstorm some ideas that you can do together to use your home as a place where others feel welcomed, loved, and experience the love of God.

We've provided a resource to help you put your plan on paper and keep it in front of your household throughout the year (be sure to hang it up in a place where you'll see it frequently).

Here are a few ideas to help you get rolling:

- Communicate with your neighbors. Start a Facebook, WhatsApp, or other social media platform group. Invite others on outings, or let others know when you have a household need or want some advice.
- Plan a party with some friends in your neighborhood and from church. Choose a theme for your party, like a cultural holiday or social event—like the Super Bowl.
- For those households with children, invite some of your kids' friends over for pizza after a sports game or other school event.
- Celebrate a birthday and invite neighbors. Be sure to include some church friends that you think would get along with your neighbors. Be creative—it might be your birthday, a child's birthday, or even a neighbor's birthday.
- Cook for your neighbors. If you can set a date to have them over for dinner, great! If that is unlikely to happen, then bake dessert and take it to them.
- Be available. Play out front rather than in the backyard. Take your dog on a slow walk. Expect to be interrupted. Pick hours that you know neighbors are out and about, too.

## **PRAY**

- Pray that your home would be a place of ministry where God's love is put on display.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world—especially in persecuted areas—who meet in homes to worship. Pray for courage to hold fast to the gospel.
- Pray for our missionaries around the world, that they would be refreshed in the gospel, especially when the work seems impossible.
- Pray for our incarcerated brothers and sisters, that they would “speak liberty to the captives,” sharing the freedom of the gospel (Isaiah 61:1). And that they would reintegrate in a healing way into our church and society.
- Pray for someone you know that doesn't know Jesus yet and that God would make his gospel known to them.