

W is for Welcome - Discussion Notes

Part 2

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- The central thought of the theme of this series is: God is a God of welcome.
- Jesus exemplified this as a constant “welcomer” of people of all backgrounds.
- As Jesus welcomed, so too are we to welcome.
- Being a people of welcome is a part of our purpose, our mission.

Principles of Welcome:

- We welcome because it is an expression of God’s Love.
- We welcome because Jesus welcomed us and that welcome changed our lives.
- We welcome because Jesus practiced it, and we follow His example.
- We welcome because He has given us the task of filling His table with guests.
- Without the principles, the practice of welcome is shallow, inauthentic, and half-hearted.

Acts 2:42-47:

- As they understood the principles of living as Jesus taught them, the practices of welcome and community followed.
- There was something about them that was attractive; attractive enough to draw the disinterested into the ranks of the interested, and from the interested to the saved.
- That “something” was the hope of Jesus; but alongside it came practical expressions of love being communicated through this new family of God.
- A Gospel that saved them and held them because at the table, they found authentic care and a generous spirit – community.
- It encouraged them to invite others to experience it because there was always room.
- The practice of welcome has far-reaching effects on those Jesus loves.

What about us?

- We must be careful not to allow our growing sense of community to have us think we have arrived. Welcome here and the community that follows is a work in progress and to be frank, we don’t always bat a hundred.

7 Best Practices of Welcome:

- 1) We welcome connection - we’re intentional about meeting others.
- 2) We welcome story - we take the time to learn one another’s stories.
- 3) We welcome mess - humanity is messy and we help clear it up.
- 4) We welcome one another’s needs - we respond in love and engage practically.
- 5) We welcome the opportunity to serve others - in fact, we choose to serve each other.
- 6) We welcome relationships - we intentionally invite people into our lives.
- 7) There is room for more at our table - we will never turn anyone away.

Romans 12:9-13

Discussion Questions:

- What was a moment in which you really felt the welcome of God? Share stories.
- Does your life reflect the welcoming nature of God?
- What are some creative ways that you can personally practice welcome in your life?
- What are some creative ways that you can practice welcome alongside others in our church community?