

**Q:** What is our vision of welcoming God?

- Is it when we meet or stand next to the actual person of Jesus, or is it more like having a hologram image of Him miraculously appear before us with bright lights and angels singing all around. I believe it is so much more!
- As the church, we should recognize God *with us* [Emmanuel]. As one who is present and alive, or as one who is actively living within His people.
- God's presence is honored when we gather and serve one another. For It is His people who help reveal Christ and His ways to us through simple and/or maybe common ways in which we practice living and being together as community.

**Story:** Greeting or welcoming?

- Q: Does my greeting – become welcoming?
- Consider the mantra which says, “we ought to be a ‘there you are’ person instead of a ‘here I am’ person.”
- A ‘there you are’ person seeks out others.
- A ‘here I am’ person waits for others to seek them out.
- So, a truly welcoming person recognizes that we must come together. For it is God who created fellowship, friendship and family for us to enjoy life.

**Q:** What does it look like to welcome one another; OR, to welcome God?

**A:** To fully welcome God, we must also be welcoming of one another as the family of God.

**Read:** Numbers 10:29-36 (NLT)

- Hobab was wrestling with the idea of continuing a faith journey with Moses.
- Moses wants his family to know that they are all valued.
- He communicates this by sharing a vision that is inclusive.

**Q:** What is the larger picture God has in mind – for you/us?

**A:** To honor the will and way of God.

**Q:** What does it look like to welcome one another as family?

- It is more than a greeting.
- We should recognize the story of God at work in others.
- We ought to join together and seek understanding or clarity, and go forward together.
- Let us not just invite others to be with us, but let's give people all around us an opportunity to be involved.
- God wants us all to appreciate the journey we are on, and to realize that we are better together.

**Quote:** The heart of hospitality is when people leave your home they should feel better about themselves, not better about you. – Shauna Niequist, *The Power of the Living Room*.

**Gospel:** The good news, is that Christ Jesus gives us all more than we deserve.

**Q:** Should we not use our whole life to bless others?

### **Closing**

**Q:** So what does it look like to welcome God?

**A:** To welcome others like Christ. By His example:

- Let us welcome boldly.
- Let us welcome unconditionally.
- Let us welcome generously.

**Read: Matthew 25:35**, “For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

**Read: Romans 15:7**, “Therefore accept (welcome) each other just as Christ has accepted (welcomed) you, so that God will be given glory.”

### **Final Quote**

People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel. – Maya Angelou

### **PRAYER**