

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

This week, pause to look inward.

Connect with God through prayer and His Word. Open your heart to discover what He may reveal about Himself, yourself, and others. Reflect on how God is stirring you to trust Him more deeply as He invites you to live life on mission.

Set aside a few times in your schedule to seek God through these 5 devotions. They will coincide with The Vail Church September series titled, " From Back Decks to Front Porches".

## **A 5-DAY INWARD JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE**

Day 1 – Whose Table Is It?  
Devo

When you look at your table, what do you see?

For most of us, it's just a piece of furniture — a place where meals are eaten, mail piles up, and life happens in passing. But Psalm 24:1 reminds us that everything belongs to God — the wood, the chairs, the food, the space, the moments. If that's true, then your table isn't just yours; it's a gift from God for His purposes. When we surrender even something as ordinary as our table, we discover it can become holy ground — a place where strangers feel seen, friends feel safe, and the Gospel is quietly lived out over shared bread.

The first step toward hospitality is a mindset shift: this table is not mine to protect, but God's to use. When we truly believe that, we stop asking, "Should I invite someone in?" and start asking, "Lord, who do You want me to invite?"

Quote For Thought

"Hospitality is not about inviting people into our perfect homes, but about inviting them into our imperfect hearts." — Ruth Haley Barton

Reflection Question

Where have I been treating my table as mine instead of God's? What would change if I saw it as a ministry space?

Prayer of the Day

"Lord, I give You my table. Use it for Your purposes. Teach me to see it as a place of ministry, not just a piece of furniture. Show me who needs a seat at it this week. Amen."

## Day 2 – Small Table, Big Impact

Scripture: “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

- Romans 12:13

### Devo

Hospitality in the early church wasn’t about elaborate meals or impressive settings - it was about intentional presence. Followers of Jesus broke bread together daily, often in humble homes, with whatever they had. The size of the table or the quality of the food didn’t limit the impact; the love around it did the heavy lifting.

When we look at our lives, it’s easy to believe that hosting requires “more” - more space, more money, more time. But some of the most impactful moments happen over coffee on a back porch, soup around a kitchen island, or even takeout on the living room floor. God’s Kingdom advances in everyday spaces. A small table in the hands of a generous heart can change someone’s life.

### Quote For Thought

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love." — Mother Teresa

### Reflection Question

What simple meal or moment could I offer this week that would create space for connection?

### Prayer of the Day

“Jesus, take the little I have and use it for Your Kingdom. Help me to believe that what I offer in love can be enough. Give me eyes to see where a small act could have a big impact this week. Amen.”

### Day 3 – The Table Breaks Down Barriers

Scripture: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." - Acts 2:46-47

#### Devo

From the very beginning, the church understood that sharing a table was sharing life. Acts tells us they met daily, ate together, and enjoyed the favor of all people. Meals created unity. They were the setting for joy, prayer, and deep connection — where God's Spirit moved not just in formal worship, but in everyday moments. When we open our homes and tables today, we echo that same pattern, creating spaces where God's presence can knit hearts together.

Our world is divided in countless ways — by opinion, culture, class, and history. But at the table, those walls can begin to come down. An open seat communicates, You belong here. You matter here. That's the Gospel in action. It's not about winning an argument but about winning a person's heart through genuine relationship.

#### Quote For Thought

"Sharing a meal is the most intimate act of hospitality. It is not about food but about being known and welcomed." — Henri Nouwen

#### Reflection Question

Who in my life needs an invitation to the table — not just for food, but for friendship?

#### Prayer of the Day

"Lord, help me to see the people in my life who need a place to belong. Give me courage to open my table to them and grace to listen without judgment. Let my home be a place where walls come down. Amen."

## Day 4 – The Excuse List

Scripture: “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” - 1 Peter 4:9

### Devo

We all have an “excuse list” for why we can’t invite people over: my house isn’t clean enough, I don’t have time, I’m not a good cook. But Scripture calls us to practice hospitality - meaning it’s a skill we grow in, not a talent we have to perfect.

God is far more concerned with the condition of our hearts than the condition of our homes. People are not longing for flawless presentation - they are longing for genuine care. The most memorable meals often have nothing to do with food and everything to do with presence. Hospitality starts with showing up, not showing off.

### Quote For Thought

"You don't have to have it all together to invite someone in — you just have to be willing to open the door." — Christine Caine

### Reflection Question

Which excuses have kept me from inviting others to my table? What step could I take to push past one of them this week?

### Prayer of the Day

“Father, silence my excuses and give me boldness to act. Remind me that people need my presence, not my perfection. Help me open my door in faith this week. Amen.”

## Day 5 – The Open Chair

Scripture: “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind...” – Luke 14:13

### Devo

Jesus’ instructions in Luke 14 were radically countercultural. Banquets in His day were for networking and social gain - invite people who can pay you back. But Jesus flipped the script, telling His followers to invite those who could never repay them.

This is Kingdom hospitality - creating space for people on the margins, those overlooked or forgotten. When we make room for the unlikely guest, we reflect the heart of God who welcomed us when we were outsiders. An open chair is more than an empty seat — it’s an opportunity for the love of Jesus to find someone in a tangible way.

### Quote For Thought

"True hospitality is marked by an open heart and an open table — not for those like us, but for those in need of love." — Rosaria Butterfield

### Reflection Question

Has my hospitality only been directed toward people I can benefit from or people that seem unlikely to be at my table? Who could I intentionally invite to fill an empty chair at my table this month?

### Prayer of the Day

“Lord, keep my eyes open for the person who needs an invitation. Give me the courage to extend it and the humility to welcome them as You have welcomed me. Amen.”