

A group of people, including adults and children, gathered in a room with green walls and informational posters. Some people are wearing blue shirts with "st bart's" or "team" on them. The scene appears to be a community event or a church gathering.

WELCOMING

How to Welcome & Connect with New People

making, maturing, & multiplying
disciples of Jesus Christ
for God's glory

Fellow members of God's Family

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19-20

st bart's

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Implications

- We all began as outsiders.
- Those we welcome are potential or current members of God's family.
- Welcome is an expression of our identity in Christ.
- Obedience to Jesus, in loving one another.

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Vision

**making, maturing, & multiplying
disciples of Jesus Christ
for God's glory**

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NEXT STEPS



Question

What was your worst experience of welcome?

When did you most feel welcomed into a new place (e.g., party, event, church service)?

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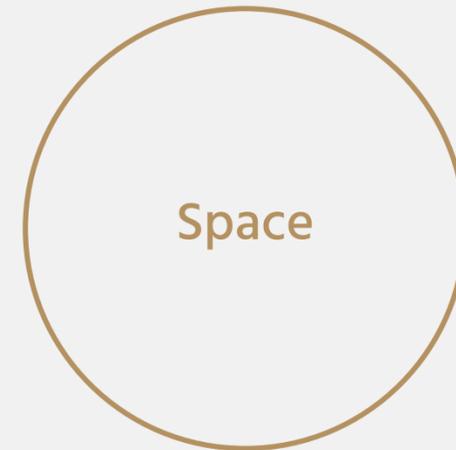
NEXT STEPS



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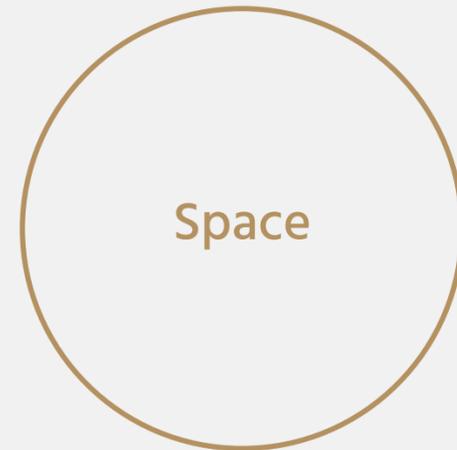
NEXT STEPS



Expecting

People

Being ready to welcome new people shapes your culture and how you prepare.



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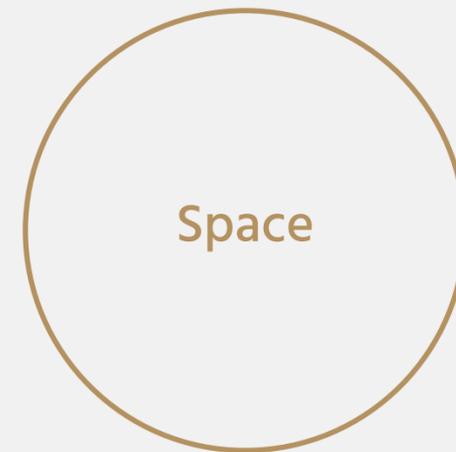
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People

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Reflect & share

What aspects might be a barrier at the moment? What would a *small shift* look like?



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Expecting *to start a conversation*

New

*How has your weekend been?
Have you lived in [this city] for a long time?
How did you find out about [this] church?
Would you like to come to ... ?
Can I introduce you to ... ?*

Familiar

*How has your weekend been?
What's been keeping you busy this week?
Would you like to come to ... ?
Can I introduce you to ... ?*

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Welcoming People

1. Expecting (& preparing) for new people. This will include praying for people and looking out for anyone new or new-ish.
2. Intentional conversations that move beyond the ‘How was your weekend?’ that care for people and help them to grow.
3. Connecting people to one another, multiplying connections. Introduce a new person to someone else (or a group of people).
4. Personal invitation to something *specific* to help them grow, such as a service/course/small group/team.

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This might require courage, but it is a way we can love others.



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Part of preparation is thinking about what you can link someone into, and making it simple to connect (e.g., forms available)



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Next Steps

It takes more than *one visit*, to help people feel like they belong.
All the same skills for those who are *new-ish*:

1. **Continue** expecting (& preparing)
2. **Continue** intentional conversations
3. **Continue** connecting people to one another
4. **Continue** personal invitation to something *specific*

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Questions & Prayer