



Love in Proximity

During this week's sermon, Pastor Enrique Melendez from Hope Community Church posed the question: How have you made your life accessible to others? Like Jesus, love is possible by being present. When there are things that keep us from fully "dwelling" in our neighborhoods and communities, are we able to fully love or be loved?

LOOKING BACK:

FAMILY TIME (25 min)

- Vision Statement: Explain the vision of lifegroup.
- Share how you felt God's presence and love this week.
- Share prayer requests and/or follow-up with previous week's prayer requests.

LOOKING UP:

WORSHIP (15 min)

- Spend time in worship together.
- Some possible song suggestions:
 - Sunday's worship set: [Find it here!](#)
 - Promises (7mins)
 - Great are you Lord (7mins)

BIBLE STUDY (30 min)

- Intro Question: Share about a time you experienced something difficult, but the presence of someone else brought you comfort or relief. What happened, and how were you blessed?

Acts 11:1-18

11¹ The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸ "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹ "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

¹⁵ "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with_[a] water, but you will be baptized with_[b] the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What stands out to you from this passage?
- 2) What do you learn about God?
- 3) What do you learn about people?
- 4) In what circumstances have you responded like Peter? What causes you to respond in this way?

LOOKING FORWARD (20 minutes)

Prayer Journaling exercise

Places of fear or hurt in our lives or our past sometimes cause us to remain distant and avoid dwelling with others. Other times, circumstances may be a barrier. Take some time to ask God:

- 1) Lord, what stands in the way of my dwelling with others?
- 2) Father, how would you like me to seek healing or help with these things?

Leaders, encourage members to continue to seek God's guidance during the week.

KIDS' LESSON SUGGESTION:

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rweIE8yyYOU>

1. What did you like about this video?
2. What did you learn about kindness from this video?
3. How did each person feel when they received an act of kindness?
4. Do you think the act of kindness can change the world? If so, how?
5. Have you ever received an act of kindness from someone? If so, how did it make you feel and did it make you want to show kindness to others?

6. Let's Read Philippians 2:3-4:

"3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

7. What do you think God is trying to tell us in this passage?
8. What is one thing you'd like to practice this week from this passage?