

# WAYS

## DEVOTIONAL

### **What are the Ways?**

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

# How do I Devote?

## 1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

## 2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

## 3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

## 4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

## 5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

# Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



# MAKE OTHERS AT HOME *Here*

Sunday

Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Make Others at Home Here* this week.



RATHER,

*he must enjoy having*

GUESTS IN HIS HOME,

*and he must love what is good.*

HE MUST LIVE WISELY AND BE JUST.

*he must live*

A DEVOUT AND DISCIPLINED LIFE.

*titus 1:8*

Monday

**READ:** Titus 1:5-9

**THINK:** It's not enough to be good and devout, an elder must enjoy showing hospitality. Imagine if that was what Christians were known for, that we welcome people. We are often seen as judgemental, but the mark of a faithful Christian is that you look to *Make Others at Home Here*. How warmly you welcome someone can directly impact how warmly they feel welcomed by God.

**PRAY:** for the opportunity to help someone feel welcomed and accepted by God.



AS FOR YOUR  
WIFE SARAI,

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YOU WILL NO LONGER  
CALL HER SARAI.

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HER NAME WILL  
NOW BE SARAH.

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GENESIS 17:15

Tuesday

**READ:** Genesis 17:1-16

**THINK:** There is power in a name and power in knowing someone's name. Here though, God takes it a step farther. She had been called Sarai, but God renames her Sarah. People walk into church weighed down by names: unsuccessful, unloved, overachiever, or boring. We can *Make Others at Home Here* and extend to them a new name. In friendship, we can name them son, sister, worthy, redeemed, and most of all; loved.

**PRAY:** that God would give you the words to encourage someone who needs it.

*Make Others at Home Here* today.



A romantic scene featuring a couple in silhouette, kissing and holding sparklers against a twilight sky with a crescent moon and stars.

GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH  
A HOLY KISS.  
2 CORINTHIANS 13:12

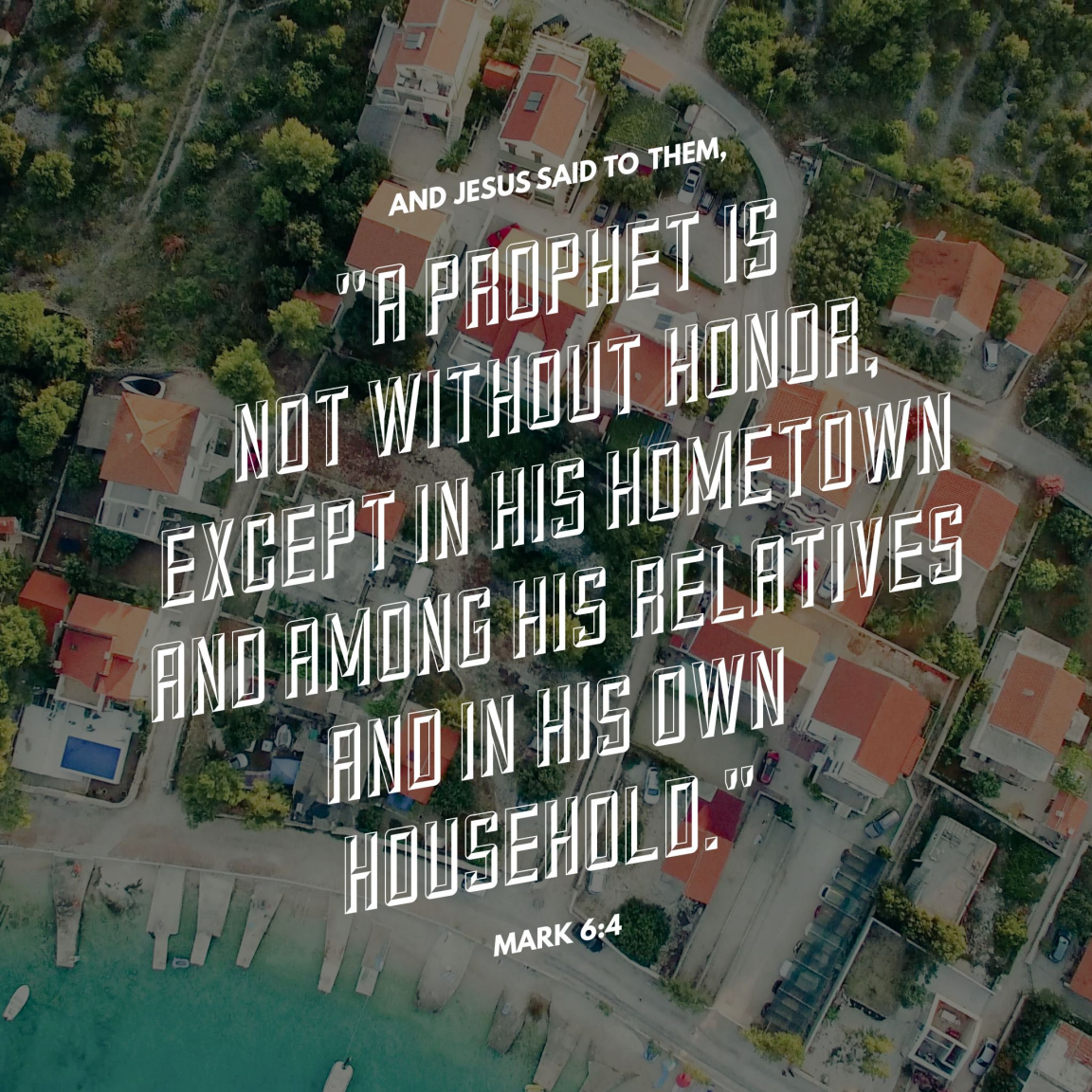
Wednesday

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

**THINK:** Even though its in Scripture, please don't kiss our visitors. But while you should steer clear of a "holy kiss" we should greet one another with love, compassion, and recognition. It can feel awkward to greet someone you don't know, do it anyway. You might not feel like you know whether to shake hands, wave, or high five, greet them anyway. Sometimes a simple greeting is all it takes to *Make Others at Home Here*.

**PRAY:** for the courage to welcome people.

*Make Others at Home Here* today.



AND JESUS SAID TO THEM,

"A PROPHET IS  
NOT WITHOUT HONOR,  
EXCEPT IN HIS HOMETOWN  
AND AMONG HIS RELATIVES  
AND IN HIS OWN  
HOUSEHOLD."

MARK 6:4

Thursday


**READ:** Mark 6:1-6

**THINK:** Jesus could do no mighty work because of the way He was seen in His hometown. If people's lingering perceptions of Him kept Jesus from performing miracles, how much more might our perception of past members or returning students keep them from living up to their potential. Part of *Making Others at Home Here*, is seeing people we think we know with new eyes to welcome them back.

**PRAY:** God would give you new eyes to welcome people home.

*Make Others at Home Here* today.





WHEN A FOREIGNER LIVES  
WITH YOU IN YOUR LAND,  
DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIM.  
TREAT THE FOREIGNER  
THE SAME AS A NATIVE.  
LOVE HIM LIKE ONE OF YOUR OWN.  
REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE  
ONCE FOREIGNERS IN EGYPT.  
I AM GOD, YOUR GOD.  
LEVITICUS 19:33-34

Friday


**READ:** Leviticus 19:32-37

**THINK:** Ever since middle school there has been an in-crowd and an out-crowd. Sadly, church can be no different. There is an innate desire to form a closed group because it's comfortable and it's safe. When you *Make Others at Home Here*, your comfortable, safe community will change but you see new life brought to the church through it.

**PRAY:** the Spirit would show you how people are left out at church.

*Make Others at Home Here* today.





SO WELCOME EACH OTHER, IN  
THE SAME WAY  
THAT CHRIST  
ALSO WELCOMED YOU,  
FOR GOD'S GLORY.  
ROMANS 15:7

Saturday

**READ:** Romans 15:1-13

**THINK:** You aren't welcomed by God because of your accomplishments and goodness. You are welcomed by Him because while you were still a sinner, Jesus died for you. When you were distant and in rebellion, Jesus reached out to you. When you *Make Others at Home Here* you get to extend Christ's unconditional welcome to people who need it.

**PRAY:** God would increase your understanding of what He has done for you

*Make Others at Home Here* today.