

LEADER VERSION

*Unreasonable*  
HOSPITALITY

COMMUNITY GROUPS  
SPRING 2025



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## INTRODUCTION: UNREASONABLE HOSPITALITY

This series dovetails with our church vision for 2025. We will consider ways we can help our people welcome guests to Granada and also serve those around them with gospel-based hospitality.

### Why this series?

- To learn to live the hospitality in keeping with the ministry of Jesus and the kingdom of God.
- To serve those who are part of the reach of our Granada Church family.
- To learn the way of loving service in our city.

### The parts of the series

1. Worship Service Messages
2. Weekly Practices
3. Weekly Groups
4. Podcast

(If interested in learning more: *Unreasonable Hospitality* by Will Guidara)

## [FOR LEADERS] – OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

### Week 1 – February 23

**Title:** Unreasonable Kindness

**Text:** 2 Samuel 9:1-13

**Theme:** How unreasonable love flows from the gospel; David received it himself along with the kingship; now he has learned to extend it; his love for Jonathan is seen in his love for Jonathan's son; our love for Jesus shows up in our passion for people; the gospel is that Jesus invited us in and seated us at his table; Unreasonable love provides a seat at the table

**Practice:** Share a meal with a new friend or someone new from church/work

### Week 2 – March 2

**Title:** Unreasonable Love

**Text:** Luke 7:36-50

**Theme:** What hospitality means and how it is practiced; how to care for others springs from being loved by God; Hospitality is often about giving people what we think they deserve; Unreasonable Hospitality is giving people what Jesus deserves. We learn the customary greeting used in the time of Jesus and think about our own.

**Practice:** Treat someone to a meal or pick up the check for someone without drawing attention to yourself.

### **Week 3 – March 9**

#### **Title: Unreasonable Compassion**

**Text:** John 4:4-26

**Theme:** Unreasonable love in Jesus is sharing life with someone no longer accepted in society; a woman trying to find her identity apart from God; Living water as the gift of Jesus; Unreasonable love as opening the way to forgiveness and life

**Practice:** Take time this week to listen to the story of someone without offering advice or solutions to what you hear.

### **Week 4 – March 16**

#### **Title: Unreasonable Acceptance**

**Text:** Luke 19:1-10

**Theme:** How unreasonable love closes the gap between people; accepting the unacceptable; loving the unlovable; unreasonable fellowship. Jesus visits the worst person in town to show a love that is greater than our sin.

**Practice:** Give a gift to a neighbor you don't know well.

### **Week 5 – March 23**

#### **Title: Unreasonable Care**

**Text:** John 8:1-11

**Theme:** How Jesus provides an unreasonable forgiveness; how we can do that as well; Jesus steps between a woman and her accusers protecting her, shielding her and saving her life; None of what he did was deserved. It was risky.

**Practice:** Reach out to an old friend; send a letter or make a phone call.

### **Week 6 – March 30**

#### **Title: Unreasonable Patience**

**Text:** John 3:1-16

**Theme:** Unreasonable truth and love; how Jesus met the intellectual on his own turf and revealed to him the truth of God's kingdom; how we show unreasonable love in conversation; We do so when we listen; when we share the truth and patiently explain.

**Practice:** Share your faith story with one person

## **Week 7 – April 6**

### **Title: Unreasonable Sacrifice**

**Text:** Mark 14:1-11

**Theme:** How we can show unreasonable love in beautiful gifts; and surprises; How Jesus has done this for us in giving himself for us; he poured himself out on our behalf.

**Practice:** Give away something that has meaning to you as an act of friendship

### **Desires for our group meetings**

1. Participate in each session of the study. Being present allows us to grow together and build on what we have learned along the way.
2. Take responsibility for our own learning. This means being willing to ask questions and seek the answers together. Your leader is meant to be more of a facilitator than the group's teacher. If you see something, say something.
3. Listen actively to each other. This will allow us to benefit from each other's wisdom and insight. Here we will experience the power of Christ in our midst.
4. Challenge the study's ideas and build on each other's ideas and thoughts.
5. Be willing to disagree lovingly, knowing this is how we get to the truth and learn to apply it.
6. Realize that Jesus is in the midst with us and become sensitive to the direction of the Spirit of God.
7. Treat each other with respect in accordance with the gospel. Encourage and pray for each other.
8. We will also be working to implement practices each week to give application to our learning. You can support each other in your group by completing the practice and sharing what you have learned in the process. Remember the goal is not to be able to check the practice off your list as an accomplishment, but to learn the way of Jesus by doing what he did.

## WEEK 1 – UNREASONABLE KINDNESS

**[FOR LEADERS]:** Take a few minutes for introductions and make decisions as a group about arrangements. Will you share a meal each week? If so, how will you pitch in to see that it happens? Does your group need childcare assistance? If so, how can you work together to meet that need? What will be your start and stop times? Work to agree on these arrangements at this first meeting.

Also, spend a brief amount of time reading through the *Desires for our group meetings*. Let everyone know that they have an important role in the group. They can serve each other by protecting each other and using their group time well.

**\*Each week, the following content is included in the group member material:**

### **Warming Up**

1. Share an experience when you received extraordinary kindness. Why was this memorable to you? What made it special?
2. What is the greatest barrier to having people in your home for a meal? How can you overcome this challenge?
3. What do you hope to learn from this study and from the time you spend with your group?
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### **What does unreasonable hospitality look like?**

In Italy, a small family-run restaurant initiated a "Kindness Table" where patrons could pay for a meal for someone in need. Diners were encouraged to leave a note, and the restaurant would provide the meal to someone experiencing tough times, making them feel valued and cared for.

## Scripture Study

### 2 Samuel 9:1-13

1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied. 3 The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet." 4 "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar." 5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. 6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "At your service," he replied. 7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table." 8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" 9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

## **For Discussion**

1. Why does David seek out Mephibosheth? What is the motive for his kindness? How does this relate to us today? What is the basis for the hospitality we show?
2. Why is Mephibosheth afraid to come before David? Why shouldn't he be?
3. What happened to Mephibosheth to leave him in such dire circumstances? What had he lost? How does this correspond to what David extended to him?
4. What is unreasonable hospitality? What makes David's actions unreasonable? Does David give Mephibosheth what he deserves? What more does he provide?
5. How do the actions of David reflect the gospel and what Jesus has done for us? How does the gospel of Christ motivate us to express love in tangible ways?

## **Application**

1. Why do you think we naturally gravitate away from people like Mephibosheth? How can we move toward them instead of away?
2. In what practical ways can you show hospitality like David did? Who might be a good recipient? What might that look like?
3. Who are the people around us in the city who are the most disenfranchised? What are ways we can make room for them?

## **Practice for this coming week**

Share a meal with a new friend or someone new from church/work.

## **Prayer**

Gracious and loving Father, open our eyes to see the bounty of your provision for us. Remind us each day that it is all a gift. Teach us your ways that we share the grace you have given us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



## WEEK 2 – UNREASONABLE LOVE

**[FOR LEADERS]:** Take time for introductions but be more brief than last week except for new group members. Give a quick review of the desires we have for groups.

### Warming Up

1. Invite members of your group who have tried one of the practices to share their story. How did it go? What did they learn?
2. If you had to choose to serve or to be served, which would you choose and why?
3. Share with your group a time when a crisis was turned into an opportunity to serve others.
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

During a heavy snowstorm, a small Japanese ryokan (inn) had guests stranded for several days. The owners offered free extra nights, hand-prepared special meals, and arranged traditional performances to entertain the guests. They also provided snow gear for those who wanted to explore the snowy landscapes and personally cleared paths for safe walking. Instead of treating the storm as a crisis, the inn transformed the ordeal into an unforgettable experience.

### Scripture Study

#### Luke 7:36-50

**36** When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. **38** As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." **40** Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. **41** "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender.

One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. 44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

### **For Discussion**

1. Why was hospitality so important in the ancient world?
2. What is the customary way a dinner guest like Jesus would be treated? Why do you think Jesus was not treated this way by Simon the Pharisee?
3. How did the actions of the woman shock Simon and all who were present? What did she do that was taboo? What was extravagant and unreasonable?
4. What was Simon's response? What did Jesus hope to teach Simon by telling him a parable?
5. What do Jesus' parable and application teach us about unreasonable hospitality? What is the motivation behind the unreasonable hospitality we practice?
6. Why does Jesus assure this woman that her sins are forgiven? How do we see the unreasonable nature of her faith in her actions?

### **Application**

1. What is the goal of our hospitality? What is the motivation? What does our welcome of others reveal about us?
2. How can we give love to Jesus in the way we treat others?

**Practice for this coming week**

Treat someone to a meal, or pick up the check for someone without drawing attention to yourself.

**Prayer**

Father God, you give over and over to provide for us. Teach us your way of generosity, we pray. Show us how we can show unreasonable hospitality. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## WEEK 3 – UNREASONABLE COMPASSION

**[FOR LEADERS]:** Are the arrangements working for your group, or do you need to make changes? Also, take a moment to review the desires for your group meetings. How are you doing? How can you improve your group meetings? Invite input from the members of your group.

### Warming Up

1. Take a few moments to get feedback and stories from last week's practice. What was your experience? What did you learn?
2. Share about an important conversation you had that changed you. Why was it so impactful? How did that person treat you?
3. In your conversations, would you rather speak the truth or be loving? Share about a time when you found it difficult to do both.
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

A couple visiting New York dined at Eleven Madison Park and mentioned how much they loved New York bagels. Before they left, the restaurant staff packed a bag of freshly made bagels with homemade schmear. The team later learned that the couple had forgotten the bagels at the restaurant. To ensure they didn't miss out, a staff member biked across Manhattan to deliver them to the couple's hotel.

### Scripture Study

#### John 4:4-26

*4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father*

*Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” 16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” 17 “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” 19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” 21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you - I am he.”*

### **For Discussion**

1. What is the most likely reason for the woman coming out to the well at noon? Why would women not typically do that?
2. Why does Jesus begin the conversation by asking for her help? What happens when we ask people to help us?
3. Why would a Jewish man not do what Jesus did here? (Speak with a Samaritan. Have a personal conversation in public with a woman who is not from his family.)
4. Why does Jesus offer her living water? How does this offer open the way for a life-changing conversation?
5. How does Jesus speak with the woman in a way that is both loving and honest? Why is what he says not offensive but helpful?
6. How could what Jesus does here be considered hospitality? How is it unreasonable?

## **Application**

1. Who are the “unseen” people in our city? How can we be more aware of them? How can we “see” them?
2. How can we make room for people simply by listening to them? How does listening open the way to practicing unreasonable hospitality?
3. What happens when, instead of appearing to be the ones to help everyone else, we become those who need (and ask for) help? How can we make this practical in our relationships with others?

## **Practice for this coming week**

Take time this week to listen to the story of someone without offering advice or solutions to what you hear.

## **Prayer**

God of all grace, teach us how to listen to those around us so that we can learn what it means to serve and love them. In the name of Jesus, our servant king, we pray. Amen.

## WEEK 4 – UNREASONABLE ACCEPTANCE

**[FOR LEADERS]:** As you begin, take time to thank the host and your group members for committing to life together. You are midway through your study. Do you need to make any mid-course corrections to make your time together more fruitful and helpful for all?

### Warming Up

1. Take a few moments to get feedback and stories from last week's practice. What was your experience? Did you find this practice to be difficult or easy? How so?
2. Do you find you are more comfortable around people much wealthier than you are or much poorer? Why do you think this is the case?
3. Would you rather be in someone else's home for a meal or have people in your home? Why this preference?
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

A bride flying to her destination wedding lost her wedding dress in transit. When the airline staff found out, they searched through unclaimed baggage at multiple airports until they located the dress. To ensure its safe arrival, a pilot personally flew the dress on the next available flight and delivered it to the bride in time for her big day.

### Scripture Study

#### Luke 19:1-10

*1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four*

times the amount.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

### **For Discussion**

1. Who was this man Zacchaeus? Why would he need to climb a tree to see Jesus?
2. How would a town like Jericho prepare for a visit of someone like Jesus? Where would Zacchaeus find a tree to climb? What does this tell us about Jesus’ visit?
3. What is surprising about Jesus’ decision to go to Zacchaeus’ house? Why would this offend the local leaders and the people of Jericho in general?
4. How was Jesus’ action an expression of unreasonable hospitality? What do Jesus’ actions tell Zacchaeus about who he is before God? How does Jesus reinforce this in what he says to Zacchaeus?
5. What was the result in Zacchaeus’ life? Why do you think Jesus equates this with salvation? Did Zacchaeus’ actions save him or did his actions flow from Jesus’ extension of grace to him? Explain.

### **Application**

1. How can wealth and status in the community keep us from friendship with, and care for, people? How does the gospel help us to cross these barriers?
2. How can we communicate the love of Jesus to people who feel overlooked, to people who think they do not matter?

### **Practice for this coming week**

Give a gift to a neighbor you don’t know well.

### **Prayer**

Lord of all, help us to see people we might overlook and to reach out to those who feel left out. Thank you for making room for us in your family. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



## WEEK 5 – UNREASONABLE CARE

**[FOR LEADERS]:** As you begin, pray for your group. Remind the group that Jesus is in the midst, mediating the relationships of the group members.

### Warming Up

1. Who did you visit with this week? How did they respond? What did you learn in the process? How did your visit with them encourage you?
2. Who is someone in your life (but not in your family) who you know would stand with you no matter what?
3. When have you felt most alone in your life? Where were you and what was happening at the time?
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

A family vacationing at a Ritz-Carlton resort realized their child had left behind a cherished stuffed animal, a lion named Joshie. The hotel not only returned the lion but also sent along a photo album showing Joshie enjoying his “extended stay.” The album included pictures of the toy at the spa, by the pool, and working at the concierge desk. This act showed the staff’s creativity and their willingness to go the extra mile by not only solving a problem, but by also bringing joy in the process.

### Scripture Study

#### John 8:1-11

*1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing*

*there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

### **For Discussion**

1. Some translators of the New Testament think this passage was originally found in another of the gospels. Why might it have been relocated? How do we know this encounter of Jesus happened?
2. At this moment, it seems like Jesus is being set up. What would the teachers of the law and Pharisees typically do in a situation like this? What do they expect Jesus to do?
3. What do you think it felt like for the woman? Why do you think they made her stand in front of everyone?
4. What was Jesus' challenge to the men? How did they respond? What did they do?
5. What did Jesus tell the woman? What did he exhort her to do? How could he tell her to do this?
6. What makes this scene unreasonable? How did Jesus make room for this woman and at the same time honor and challenge her?

### **Application**

1. Who are the sorts of people we gravitate away from because of their sin? How did Jesus treat "sinners"?
2. How can love drive away shame and open the way for people to live renewed lives? Who needs this kind of radical love?
3. How can we love people trapped in sin or living shattered lives? How can we escape the trap of judging them?

### **Practice for this coming week**

Reach out to an old friend; send a letter or make a phone call.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for taking the judgment for sin that should fall upon me. Teach me to be a bearer of your grace and forgiveness to those around me. In your name, I pray. Amen.

## WEEK 6 – UNREASONABLE PATIENCE

**[FOR LEADERS]:** Next week will be your final week together in this study. As a group, is there a way you can celebrate? How can you make this a special time?

### Warming Up

1. Share experiences of last week's practice (or those from earlier weeks).
2. Share about a time when you spoke with a non-Christian about your faith in Christ. How did the conversation begin? How did it end?
3. What is the most challenging question you have been asked about your faith? How did you respond?
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

A guest dining alone at a Michelin-starred restaurant mentioned they were visiting from out of town and dining solo to celebrate their own birthday. The restaurant staff not only brought out a beautifully plated birthday dessert but also handed the guest a signed cookbook from the chef with a note saying, "Happy birthday—may your future meals be as extraordinary as today's." The restaurant went above and beyond culinary to create a deeply personal experience.

### Scripture Study

#### John 3:1-16

*1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." 4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." 9 "How*

*can this be?” Nicodemus asked. 10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

### **For Discussion**

1. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night? What was he likely concerned about? How did Nicodemus affirm Jesus?
2. Nicodemus was well-educated and one of the leading teachers in the land. How does Jesus treat him? What is surprising in their exchange?
3. How did Jesus respond to Nicodemus? Why do you think Jesus so quickly told Nicodemus that people who wish to see the kingdom of heaven must be born again?
4. What do you make of Nicodemus’ question? Why was this concept so difficult for him to understand?
5. How did Jesus help Nicodemus understand? How did Jesus show Nicodemus unreasonable kindness and love? How might we do as Jesus did today?

### **Application**

1. Why is sharing the grace of Jesus a display of unreasonable love? Is it risky to share in our day and age? How so?
2. How can we be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have?

### **Practice for this coming week**

Share your faith story with one person. (Ask God to open the door for you to do so. That person may or may not be in the faith.)

### **Prayer**

Loving God, we rest in your truth. Teach us, we pray, how we can share your love with the people who are around us. Open doors for the message of your grace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## WEEK 7 – UNREASONABLE SACRIFICE

**[FOR LEADERS]:** Before you begin, thank your hosts for their kindness and hospitality. Thank the group for walking together during these seven weeks. Invite the members of your group to share what they have learned about unreasonable hospitality. You may wish to discuss coming together for a group reunion in the future. Please encourage group members to contact Peggy Gasior ([peggy@granadachurch.com](mailto:peggy@granadachurch.com)) if they have any specific feedback regarding their community group experience.

### Warming Up

1. Share an experience from your practice of unreasonable hospitality from last week.
2. Share an experience of a sacrificial/surprising gift you have received. How did this impact you?
3. How do you feel when someone gives you a gift and there is no way to reciprocate? Would you say you are good at receiving gifts? How can we be?
4. Read the story below. What can we learn from this example to help us understand and implement unreasonable hospitality?

### What does unreasonable hospitality look like?

A regular customer stopped visiting their favorite restaurant, and the staff discovered it was due to a medical issue. The restaurant team prepared the customer's favorite dishes, delivered them to their home, and included a get-well-soon card signed by the entire staff.

### Scripture Study

#### Mark 14:1-11

*1 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. 2 "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot." 3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. 4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given*

*to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. 6 “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. 8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” 10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11 They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*

### **For Discussion**

1. Mark, the author of this gospel, tells us about two people as contrasts. What is the contrast between Judas and the woman who anoints Jesus?
2. What did the woman do that was so unreasonable? What would the perfume mean to her? What was she saying to Jesus?
3. What was Judas’ response to her extraordinary gift? Why did he respond in this way?
4. Jesus says that such gifts as the woman’s are prophetic. How so? Why will she be remembered? Why is unreasonable hospitality remembered?
5. What does Judas do in the end? Why are his actions so shocking?

### **Application**

1. How does the way we treat others reflect the love we have for Jesus? How can our actions be prophetic?
2. Why must we be willing to receive unreasonable hospitality as well as show it?

### **Practice for this coming week**

Give away something that has meaning to you as an act of friendship.

### **Prayer**

Lord God, we look to you for strength and wisdom in loving others. Open our eyes to see opportunities to express your grace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.





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