



# LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER

AWAKEN RISK BLESS

## Invitation

*If we are genuinely concerned about the needs of strangers, offering hospitality requires courage. It involves not only a willingness to take some risks in welcoming others, but it also requires the kind of courage that lives close to our limits, continually pressing against the possible, yet always aware of the incompleteness and the inadequacy of our own responses. At the same time, living so close to the edge of sufficient resources increases our dependence on, and our awareness of, God's interventions and provision.*

—Christine Pohl, *Offering Hospitality*, August 2, 2016,

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/community/service/hospitality-in-christian-community>

### Purpose

Practicing invitation helps us extend hospitality to both friends and strangers. It pushes us to risk making room for others in our lives without knowing with certainty where the relationship will lead. Practicing invitation does not eliminate the uncertainty but helps us get more comfortable with one of the most significant ways we convey how much we value others.

### Process

1. Be prayerful about whom the Spirit may be nudging you to invite to a conversation, meal, or community gathering.
2. Make a commitment to extend one invitation a week to someone you don't know well. This may be to a phone conversation, a coffee house, or a meeting of a small group of friends.
3. Pray for courage and extend an invitation.
4. Pay attention to how you feel making the invitation and how the other person responds.
5. Offer gratitude in prayer for the experience. Reflect on what you learned about yourself in the experience.