

Rooted and Growing Deep: Welcome

5-Day Devotional

Rooted and Growing Deep
CLC CORE VALUES • 5-WEEK SERMON SERIES
INSPIRED GROWTH

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

WEEK 1: Welcome
WEEK 2: Worship
WEEK 3: Learning
WEEK 4: Service
WEEK 5: Generosity

FIVE WAYS TO BE ROOTED AND GROWING DEEP IN JESUS

WEEK ONE
Welcome
MORE THAN A HELLO

Welcome is the first step on our pathway of discipleship. It's not just about greeting people we know — it's about helping everyone feel seen, valued, and included, because that's what Jesus does.

WELCOME ISN'T OPTIONAL
“And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even unbelievers do that?”
MATTHEW 5:47

The bar is pretty low. Everyone greets the people they know. We are called to something more.

WELCOME REVEALS WHAT WE BELIEVE
How you treat people is evidence of who YOU think God is — not who God actually is.

Is God loving — or grumpy — in your mind?

Live such good lives among unbelievers that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
1 PETER 2:12

JESUS SETS THE EXAMPLE
Jesus welcomed people from all walks of life. He put people at ease. We want to reflect that — starting here, at church — then out in the world.

“I like your Christ, not your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

Let's make sure people never say that about us.

THE BIG PICTURE: JESUS' PARABLE
Luke 14:15-24

- 1 Already said yes, now backing out.**
Good reasons can still be a no.
- 2 Good things, quietly weaponized.**
Field, oxen, marriage — nothing on the list is a sin, but good things can crowd out Jesus.
- 3 The host goes further out.**
There's still room — so the invitation keeps going.
- 4 Compelled, not eager.**
We invite even those who feel overlooked.
- 5 The verdict belongs to the host.**
Our job is to go, not to keep score.

OUR CALL TODAY

- SEE EVERYONE**
Not just the people you know — everyone you lock eyes with.
- WELCOME HERE**
Make people feel at home in our church.
- WELCOME BEYOND THE WALLS**
Invite and include at home, at work, in the community — where everyday life happens.

IT'S ABOUT HOW GENEROUS GOD IS

Welcome reflects the heart of a God who opens the table, makes room for more, and invites everyone to be part of his family.

Day 1: Rooted and Growing

Reading: Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Devotional: Salvation is the beginning, not the finish line. Paul writes that receiving Christ as Lord is only the first step — what follows is a life of being rooted, built up, and strengthened in faith. Discipleship is not about earning God's love. It is a response to love already given freely. Just as a tree does not grow overnight, spiritual growth takes time, intention, and nourishment. Ask yourself today: am I actively tending to my relationship with Jesus, or have I treated salvation as a destination rather than a doorway? Growth is the invitation waiting on the other side.

Personal Reflection: What one habit could you begin this week to deepen your walk with Jesus?

Practical Application: Choose one small, repeatable habit — five minutes of Scripture each morning, a weekly check-in with a trusted friend, or a daily prayer of thanks — and put it on your calendar today. Start small enough that you will actually keep it.

Day 2: The Welcome of God

Reading: Luke 14:16-23

Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’

Devotional: Jesus tells the story of a host whose invited guests all declined for reasonable, ordinary reasons — property, work, family. None of these are sins. Yet they kept people from the table. God's table is not reserved for the spiritually polished. The host sends servants into the roads and lanes, compelling anyone and everyone to come in. This is the nature of God's welcome — wide, persistent, and unconditional. You were once someone who needed to be invited in. You may have had your own excuses. God welcomed you anyway. That grace is not meant to stop with you.

Personal Reflection: What ordinary thing in your life might be quietly crowding out your response to God's invitation?

Practical Application: Look at your schedule for this week and identify one commitment that tends to crowd out time with God or with God's people. Protect a specific block of time for worship, prayer, or fellowship, and invite someone to join you at the table.

Day 3: Reflecting God's Character Through Welcome

Reading: 1 Peter 2:12

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Devotional: Peter urges believers to live such honorable lives among unbelievers that even those who are skeptical cannot deny the goodness they witness. How you treat people communicates something about who you believe God to be. A harsh, dismissive spirit suggests a harsh, distant God. A warm, generous spirit points toward a God who is near and kind. The watching world is forming impressions of Jesus based on what they observe in his people. You may be the only version of the gospel someone encounters today. What impression are you leaving? Peter's call is not to perfection, but to visible, consistent goodness.

Personal Reflection: Think of someone outside the church who watches your life. What do they likely conclude about God based on what they see?

Practical Application: Today, do one deliberate act of kindness for someone who does not share your faith — a sincere compliment, a meal, a note of encouragement, or simply unhurried attention. Let your goodness do the talking.

Day 4: Accepting One Another as Christ Accepted You

Reading: Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Devotional: Paul's instruction is both simple and staggering — accept one another just as Christ has accepted you. Christ did not wait for you to clean yourself up. He did not ask for your resume or your record of good behavior. He came to you as you were. That same posture is now the standard for how believers are to treat one another and the world around them. Welcome is not a program or a greeter's job description. It is a spiritual practice rooted in remembering what was done for you. Acceptance extended to others is gratitude expressed in human form.

Personal Reflection: Is there someone in your life, at church or beyond, whom you have been slow to accept? What would it look like to extend the same grace you have received?

Practical Application: Name one person you have been slow to accept and pray for them by name today. Then take one concrete step toward welcome — reach out, sit with them, or start a conversation with genuine curiosity.

Day 5: Presence as Ministry

Reading: Matthew 5:47

And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Devotional: Jesus raises a pointed question — if you only greet those who already know you and love you, what distinguishes you from anyone else? Everyone does that. The call of the kingdom is to go further, to notice the person on the edges, the one sitting alone, the one who came hoping someone would see them. Ministry does not always look like a program or a mission trip. Sometimes it looks like kneeling in an airplane aisle and spelling words into someone's hands one letter at a time. Presence is a form of proclamation. Showing up for someone who feels invisible is one of the most Christlike things you can do.

Personal Reflection: Who in your immediate world — your church, your neighborhood, your workplace — might simply need someone to slow down and notice them today?

Practical Application: This week, make a point to greet someone you do not know — at church, at work, or in your neighborhood. Put your phone away, make eye contact, learn their name, and give them your full attention.
