

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Prepare a Place Wk 2 – Before We Arrived - 09.06.26 - Kyle Morris

About this series:

As we continue Prepare a Place, we are looking at the character of a God who thinks about people before they arrive. From the opening pages of Genesis, God prepares a world and a garden where Adam and Eve can not only survive, but thrive in His presence. That same generous hospitality shapes the vision of Revive Church and The Bridge. God has entrusted us with people, spaces, partnerships, and opportunities so we can prepare places where others experience dignity, community, flourishing, and the love of Jesus. The invitation is not simply to enjoy what has already been prepared for us, but to become people who thoughtfully prepare a place for others.

Goals of This Week's Discussion:

- See hospitality as part of the character of God, revealed from the beginning of creation.
- Recognize that God prepared a place for humanity with beauty, provision, order, abundance, and His presence.
- Consider what it means to think about people before they arrive and create environments that communicate dignity, care, and love.
- See how God is using The Bridge and its partners to help people flourish economically, relationally, and spiritually.
- Identify practical ways we can prepare places for people God may bring into our homes, church, neighborhoods, workplaces, and city.

Connections with the 7-Marks of a Jesus Follower:

- **Walk in the Word -** Genesis reveals a God whose thoughtful preparation and generosity shape the way we understand hospitality.
- **Keep in Step -** We pay attention to the people and needs God places around us and follow His leading in how we make room for them.
- **Share Your Story -** Stories of transformation remind us that God often uses ordinary relationships and prepared spaces to draw people toward Himself.
- **Play Your Part -** We use what God has entrusted to us to create places where people can experience flourishing and encounter the love of Jesus.

Starter Questions:

- When have you felt especially cared for because someone thought about your needs before you arrived?
- What makes a place feel welcoming, safe, thoughtful, or hospitable to you?
- Who is someone you know who naturally makes room for others? What do they do that stands out?

Read Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Discussion:

- What do you notice about everything God had already prepared before humanity entered the story?
- Why does the order of creation matter when we think about God as hospitable and generous?
- How does being created in the image of God shape the way we should treat and prepare for other people?
- The sermon described God as saying, in effect, “I thought of you before you arrived.” How does that change the way you think about His care for you?
- Where do you see abundance rather than bare-minimum provision in this passage?

Read Genesis 2:8-9

8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Discussion:

- What does the garden reveal about the kind of environment God wanted humanity to experience?
- Why do you think Scripture mentions that the trees were both pleasant to the sight and good for food?
- What is the difference between creating a place where someone can survive and creating a place where someone can thrive?
- How might beauty, thoughtfulness, order, provision, and presence become expressions of hospitality today?
- What space has God already entrusted to you that could be used more intentionally for someone else?

We Thought About You Before You Arrived:

The sermon connected God's hospitality in creation with a simple but powerful idea: thoughtful love begins before a person arrives. At Revive, this means preparing spaces, relationships, ministries, and systems with real people in mind.

- How is preparing beforehand different from simply being friendly once someone shows up?
- What communicates dignity and care to someone who may be entering a church, support program, recovery group, classroom, or community space for the first time?
- Who might God be asking you to think about before they arrive?

Preparing a Place at The Bridge:

The Bridge has become a platform where ministries, businesses, organizations, volunteers, and relationships work together to help people flourish. The sermon highlighted stories of people who encountered practical support, meaningful community, and the love of Christ because someone had already made room for them.

- What stands out to you about the way different Bridge partners work together to care for the whole person?
- Why is holistic care important when we talk about helping people flourish economically, relationally, and spiritually?
- The sermon shared stories where a home, childcare, career training, recovery support, coffee, friendship, prayer, and church community all became part of someone's transformation. What does that teach us about how God works through ordinary people and places?
- Where have you seen God use something that seemed small or ordinary to become part of a much bigger story?

Read Jeremiah 29:7

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Discussion:

- How does preparing places for people connect with seeking the welfare and flourishing of our city?
- Why must prayer remain central to serving the city rather than becoming an afterthought?
- The sermon described future spaces for gardens, prayer, community, worship, and hospitality. What do these spaces represent beyond the physical improvements themselves?
- How can we seek God before we seek to serve the city?

Reflection:

- Where have you personally experienced the generosity of God through a place or person that was prepared for you?
- Who is not here yet that God may be asking you to think about now?
- What resource, room, relationship, skill, schedule, or opportunity has God entrusted to you that could become a place of hospitality?
- Are there ways you have grown comfortable enjoying what others prepared without asking how you can prepare something for the next person?
- What would it look like for the phrase "we thought about you before you arrived" to shape your life this week?

Application:

- **Prepare one detail.** Think about someone you will welcome this week and intentionally prepare one thing that communicates care before they arrive.
- **Make room.** Identify one space in your home, schedule, workplace, or relationships that could become more available to another person.
- **Notice the whole person.** In one relationship, ask what would help that person flourish relationally, practically, emotionally, or spiritually.
- **Pray before serving.** Choose one need in our city and begin praying consistently before deciding what action to take.
- **Play your part.** Take one practical step to serve through Revive, The Bridge, a ministry partner, your neighborhood, or another place God has already positioned you.

Pray:

- Thank God for His generous hospitality and for preparing a place for humanity from the beginning.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to form us into people who notice others and think about their needs before they arrive.
- Pray for every person who comes onto the Revive and Bridge campus to experience dignity, care, community, and the love of Jesus.
- Pray for the ministries, partners, volunteers, and leaders who are helping people flourish economically, relationally, and spiritually.
- Ask God to guide the future spaces being prepared and to make prayer central to everything we do.
- Pray that Revive Church would continue to live and love like Jesus, right where we are, preparing places for people to encounter the goodness and presence of God.
