

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**  
*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 23

The Week of April 30, 2023

*Live Small*  
**The Ordinary Christian Life**  
Hebrews 13:1-6

Welcome to the final stretch of our Growth Group year. In the closing five weeks we are looking at Hebrews 13 through the lens of what it means to *Live Small*. We are often told that living potently comes from dreaming big and generating a huge impact. The Bible says, however, that our greatest impact comes from being faithful in the small things that are often unnoticed by others. In this week's passage, we're going to see that deep impact comes from ordinary people doing ordinary things with gospel faithfulness.

## OBSERVING THE PASSAGE

1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?"

- Double underline the five acts found in this paragraph that fill out what it means to live the ordinary (i.e. faithful) Christian life.
- Above the words "brotherly love" write *philadelphia*.
- Above the words "show hospitality" write the word *philozenia*.
- Circle the three occurrences of the word "let."
- Place brackets around the word "since" and the three occurrences of the preposition "for" which indicate the reason for a stated action.
- In the left margin of verse 6 write *Psalm 118:6*.

## EXPLORING THE PASSAGE THROUGH DISCUSSION

1. What is your reaction to the word *ordinary* used to describe the normal Christian life? Does it feel awkward to describe faithful acts as ordinary? Why or why not?

2. In what ways can the actions commanded in verses 1-6 be considered ordinary? Which of these does our group do best? In what ways can we do better?
3. The believers addressed in Hebrews were experiencing persecution. In his message, Pastor Paul spoke of the opposite effects of persecution - *loyalty* or *betrayal*. Why does this happen and what is the remedy according to verse 1? What should a brotherly love look like in a church?
4. Discuss ways that you can practice genuine hospitality.
5. What is the enchanting reason the writer gives for showing hospitality to strangers? How does that fascinate or motivate you towards philozenia?
6. Why is true empathy a vital Christian quality? What difference can it really make? How does the preacher of Hebrews encourage the cultivation of empathy?
7. Why does the author give special emphasis to the sanctity of marriage and the importance of sexual purity?
8. What is the root of all evil? (cf. 1 Timothy 6:10) Why do you think that is?

9. What is the opposite of contentment? Can you think of concrete ways in which you feel this temptation in your own life? What are the biblical grounds for contentment?

Take a few moments to pray for the faith to live as ordinary Christians. Pray for specific decisions or life-changes that need to be made.

