



## No Vacancy

## Part 3 - "Making Room for Seasons"

Small Group Material

December 11th, 2016

Participant Guide

**Bottom Line:** *We must make room for connections and to see those we love.*

**Study Verses:** *1 Peter 1:13-16, 1 John 4:7-8, Matthew 5:23-24, Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Peter 3:8*

### Key Points

- *The more you get to know someone, the messier things get.*
- *To love is to act for the good of another.*
- *People may not remember what you say, but they will never forget the way you made them feel.*
- *If we're not careful, relationships can very easily become destinations or resume builders.*
- *It's easier to stay shallow than wade into the mess.*
- *Speed kills relationships.*

### ENCOUNTER

- Think about your relationships in 2016. Are your relationships flourishing or floundering? What has been the cause of either their growth or weakening?
- What damage can the pace of our life inflict on our relationships? When we are in a hurry, what happens to our connections?

- People may not remember what you say, but they will never forget the way you made them feel. If we were to ask your friends and family how you made them feel over the past year, what do you think their response would be and why? How would their response make you feel?

## FORMATION

*"Pride is defined by desire, not by love. It is, above all, the presumption that my desires should be fulfilled and that it is an injustice, a crying shame, and an injury if they are not... Love eliminates pride because its will for the good of the other nullifies our arrogant presumption that we should get our way." -Dallas Willard*

- Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. What does it look like to pursue holiness in our relationships with one another? How would our interactions with one another change if we looked to future grace instead of former ignorance?
- Read 1 John 4:7-8 and the quote from Dallas Willard. How does love eliminate pride? Why does love require intentionality and focus? How is our willingness to show love tied to our understanding of Christ's love?
- Read Hebrews 10:23-25 and 1 Peter 3:8. The more you get to know someone, the messier things get. How have you seen this statement play out in your relationships? What causes you to engage in self-preservation or put limits on your connections with others?
- Read Matthew 5:23-24. According to this passage, what value did Jesus place on our relationships with one another?

## EXPRESSION

- How do you want your current connections to grow and deepen in the upcoming year? What do you hope is different about your relationships a year from now?
- What values do you want to define your relationships in 2017? How will you ensure these values are lived out with the people around you? How can you make room in your life for connections?
- How would the way you approach your relationships in 2017 change if you lived by the "leave things better than you found them" principle?