

COMMUNITY/HOSPITALITY: Psalm 133

1. This is a beautifully simple psalm about the blessing of community in the extended family of faith. Read it slowly and thoughtfully. What is so “good and pleasant” about community? Think of a time when your experience of Christian community was as this psalm describes. Give thanks to the LORD (NB: “Yahweh,” our Redeemer God of covenant grace and steadfast love).
2. The psalmist gives us two similes for community in v. 2 and v.3a. How do these pictures relate to “unity among brothers?” How do they relate the concluding affirmation of v. 3b?
3. Focus closely on v. 3b, noting all that you can about what it affirms about the place of community in the economy of our covenant God. The verse might be more literally translated, “There the LORD *commands* his blessing, even life for evermore.” What difference, if any, does this more literal translation make to your understanding of the psalm?
4. In what ways could the faculty you know benefit from the kind of community described in the psalm? Why is this kind of spiritual community so rare in the academic world? In the life of our culture?
5. How is this vision of community related to the practice of hospitality? Review Elizabeth Newman’s article on hospitality and the academic life and think of ways the vision of Psalm 133 deepens and enhances the practice of hospitality she describes in her article. How might you begin or enrich your own practice of hospitality among the faculty you know?
6. *Pray* for the formation of Christian communities among faculty on your campus and across the nation through IVCF Faculty Ministry.