

## The Blessing of Hospitality: Learning from Gaius

By Ariel Presswood

Show Love | Serve Others | Reflect Christ's Grace

This activity and summary sheet set is designed to inspire participants to embrace the biblical call to hospitality, as exemplified by Gaius in 3 John 1:5-8. Through interactive activities, meaningful reflections, and practical applications, participants will explore how hospitality reflects God's love, strengthens relationships, and supports the work of the gospel. Let this guide encourage you to live a life of love, service, and generosity, glorifying God through your actions.

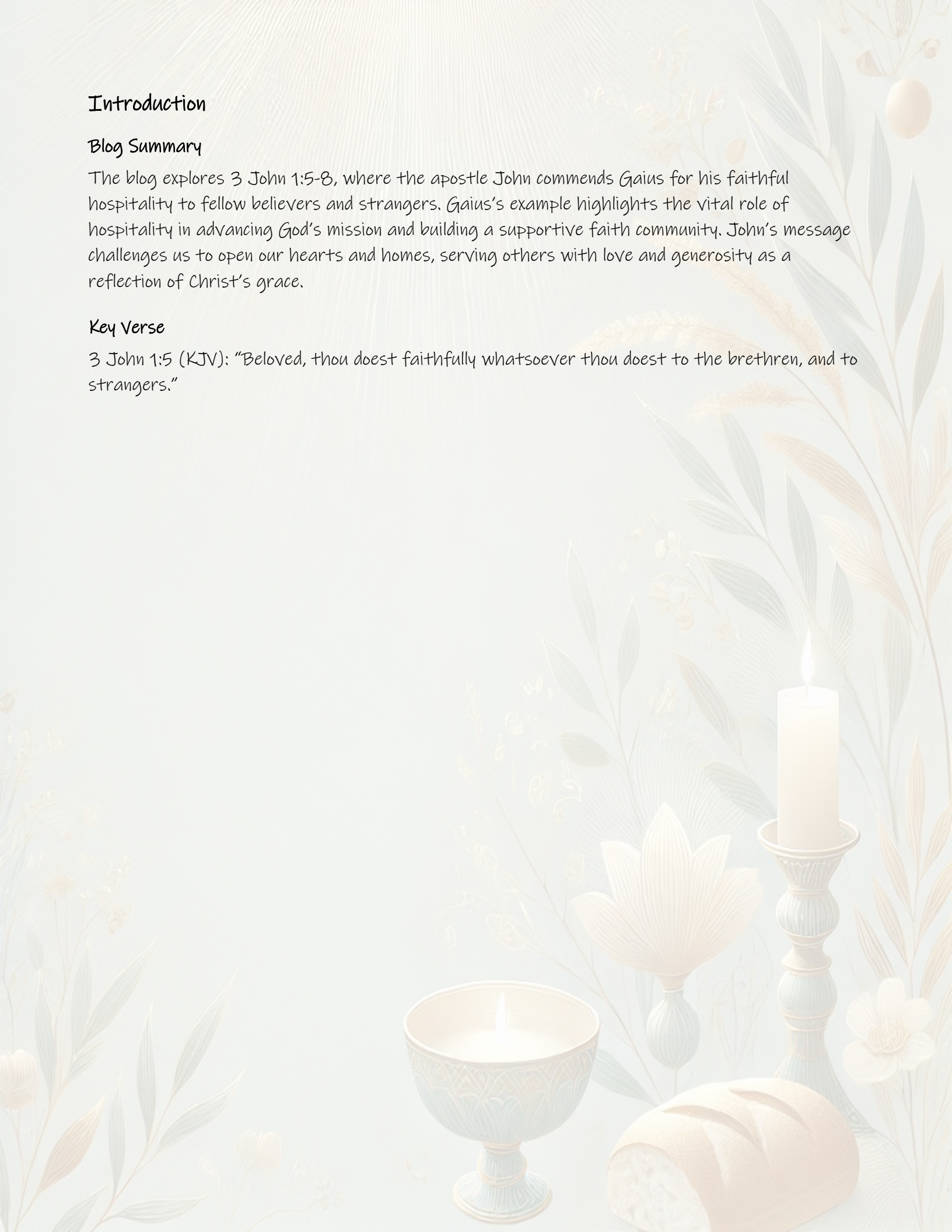
## Introduction

### Blog Summary

The blog explores 3 John 1:5-8, where the apostle John commends Gaius for his faithful hospitality to fellow believers and strangers. Gaius's example highlights the vital role of hospitality in advancing God's mission and building a supportive faith community. John's message challenges us to open our hearts and homes, serving others with love and generosity as a reflection of Christ's grace.

### Key Verse

3 John 1:5 (KJV): "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers."



## Reflection Questions

### Faithful Hospitality

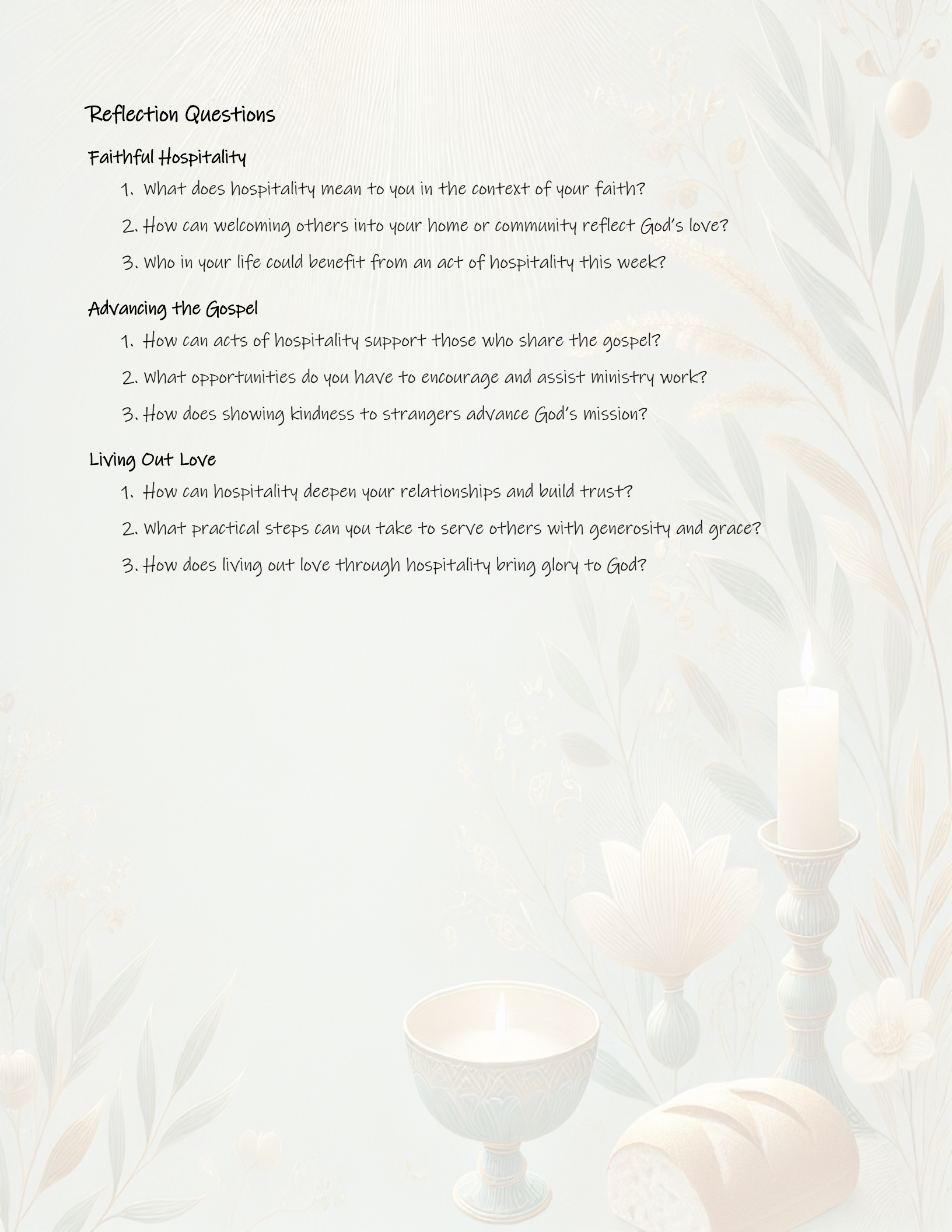
1. What does hospitality mean to you in the context of your faith?
2. How can welcoming others into your home or community reflect God's love?
3. Who in your life could benefit from an act of hospitality this week?

### Advancing the Gospel

1. How can acts of hospitality support those who share the gospel?
2. What opportunities do you have to encourage and assist ministry work?
3. How does showing kindness to strangers advance God's mission?

### Living Out Love

1. How can hospitality deepen your relationships and build trust?
2. What practical steps can you take to serve others with generosity and grace?
3. How does living out love through hospitality bring glory to God?



## Section 1: Interactive Activities

### Activity 1: Welcome Basket Craft

**Objective:** Reflect on how hospitality demonstrates God's love by creating a welcome basket for someone in need.

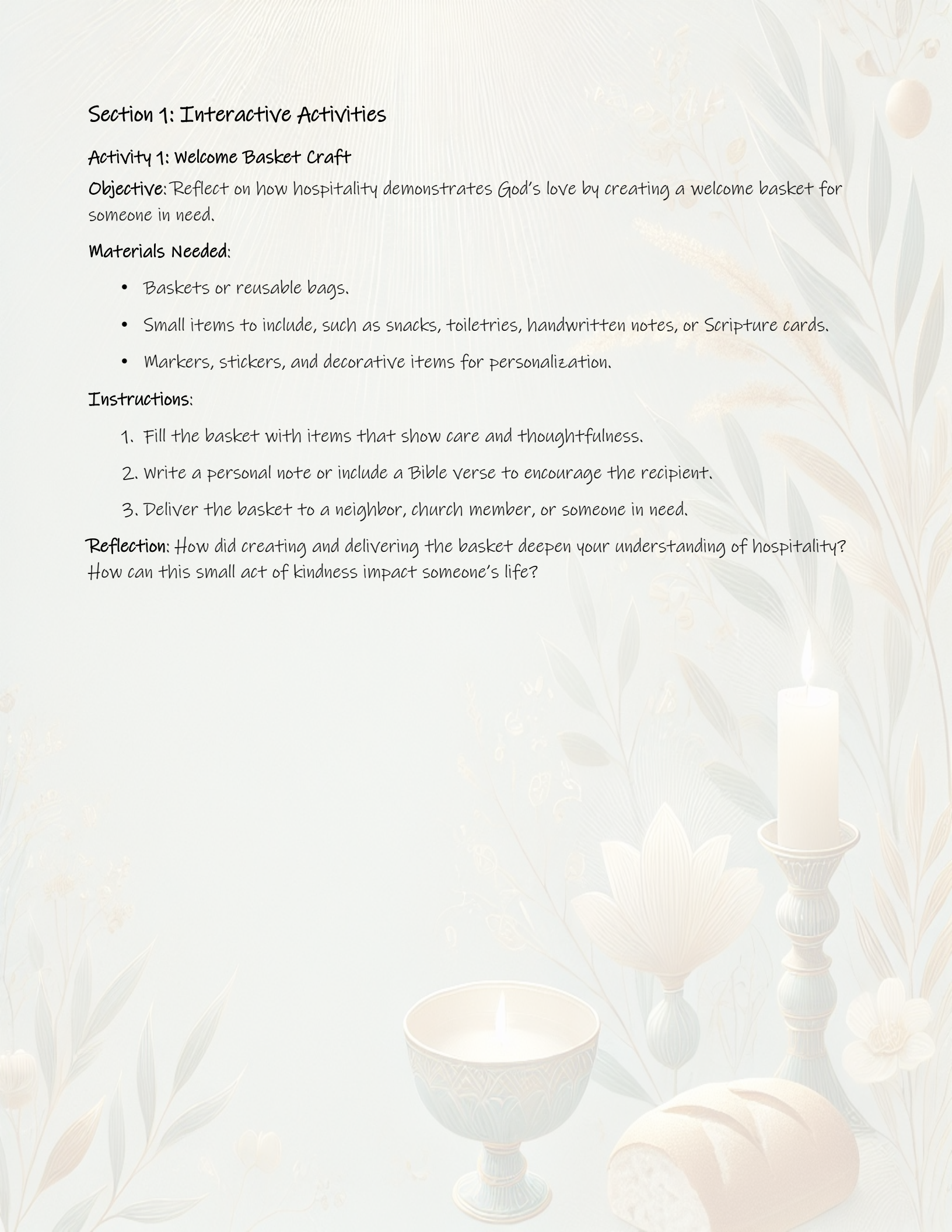
#### Materials Needed:

- Baskets or reusable bags.
- Small items to include, such as snacks, toiletries, handwritten notes, or Scripture cards.
- Markers, stickers, and decorative items for personalization.

#### Instructions:

1. Fill the basket with items that show care and thoughtfulness.
2. Write a personal note or include a Bible verse to encourage the recipient.
3. Deliver the basket to a neighbor, church member, or someone in need.

**Reflection:** How did creating and delivering the basket deepen your understanding of hospitality? How can this small act of kindness impact someone's life?



## Activity 2: Hospitality Scenarios Role-Play

**Objective:** Practice extending hospitality in various situations through interactive role-play.

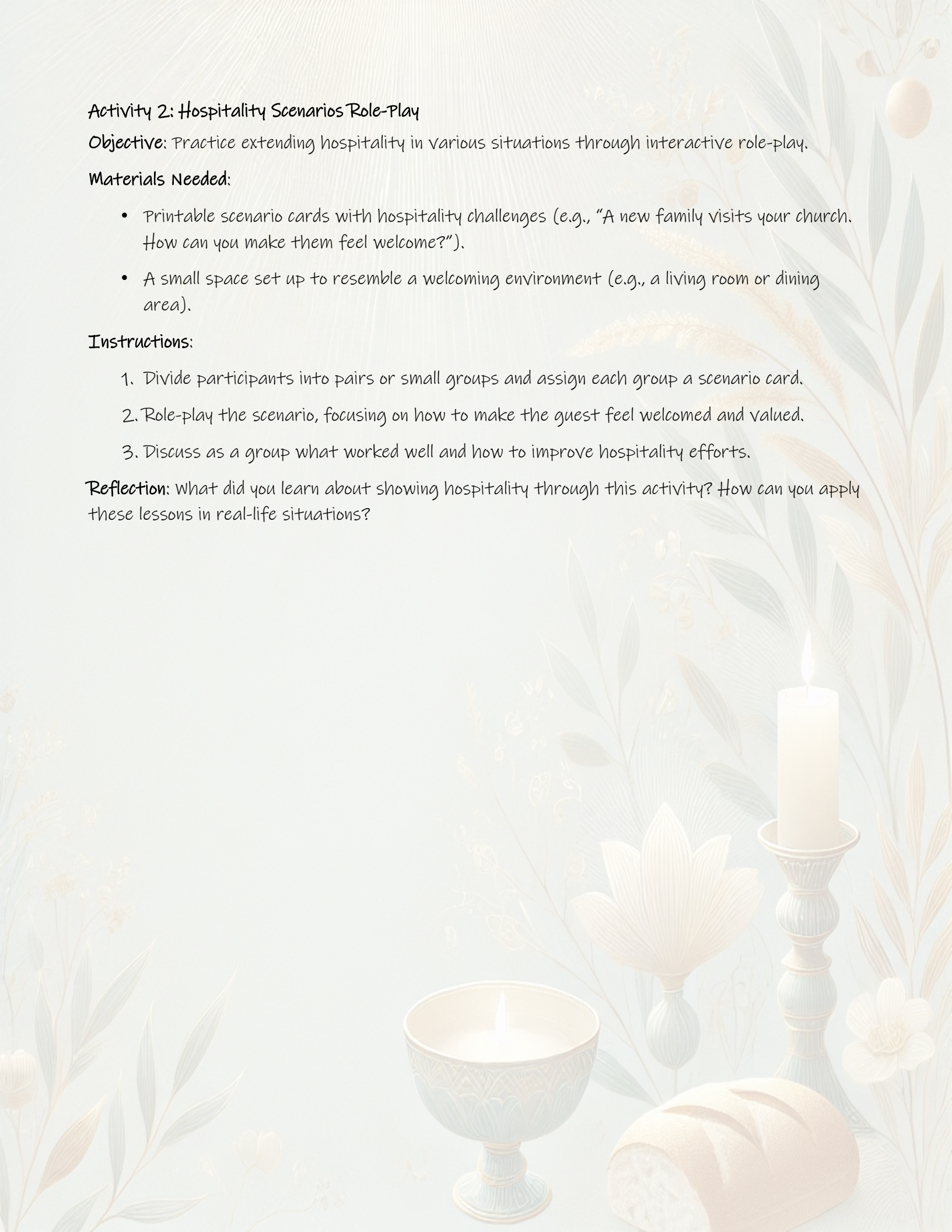
### Materials Needed:

- Printable scenario cards with hospitality challenges (e.g., "A new family visits your church. How can you make them feel welcome?").
- A small space set up to resemble a welcoming environment (e.g., a living room or dining area).

### Instructions:

1. Divide participants into pairs or small groups and assign each group a scenario card.
2. Role-play the scenario, focusing on how to make the guest feel welcomed and valued.
3. Discuss as a group what worked well and how to improve hospitality efforts.

**Reflection:** What did you learn about showing hospitality through this activity? How can you apply these lessons in real-life situations?



### Activity 3: Hospitality Tree Craft

**Objective:** Visualize the impact of hospitality on relationships and community through a creative group activity.

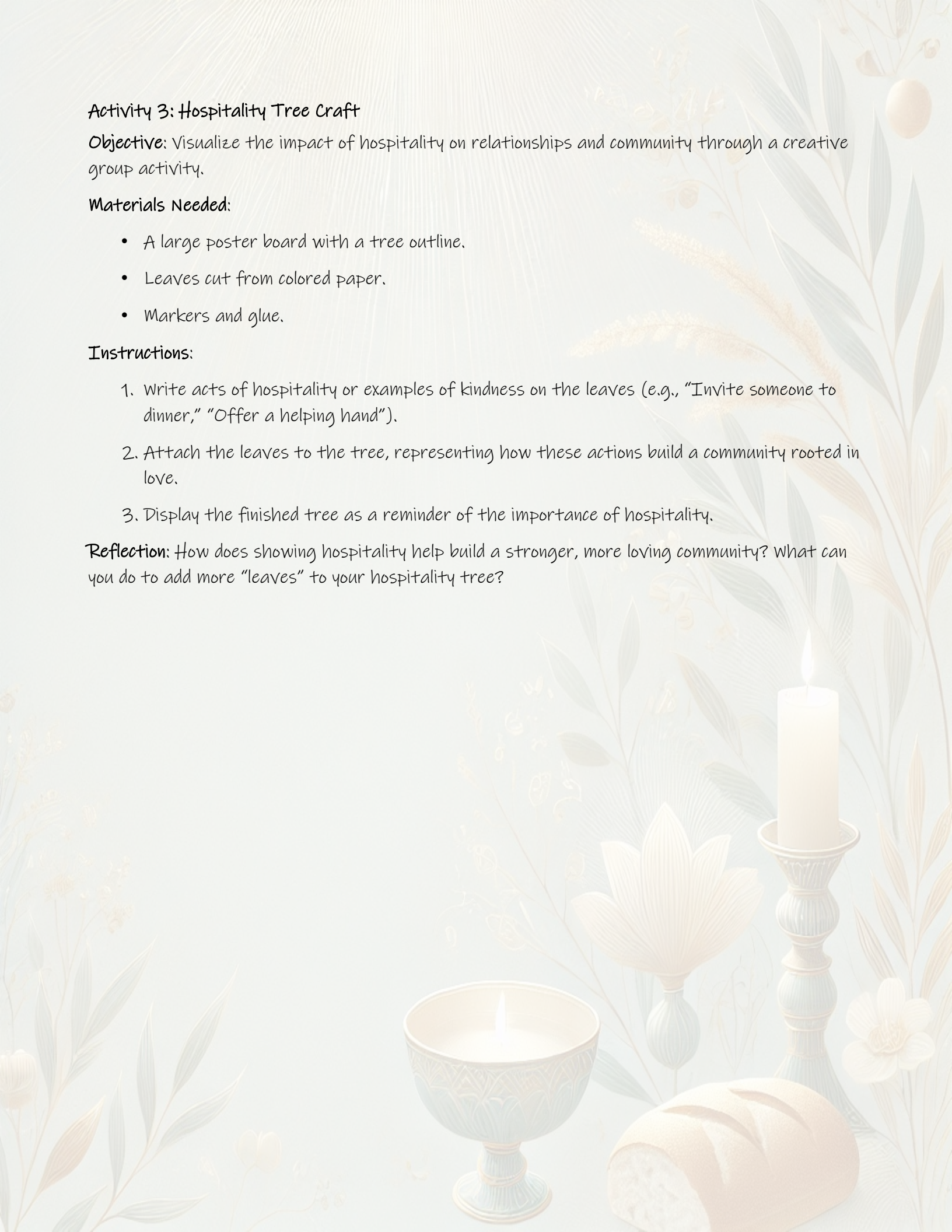
#### Materials Needed:

- A large poster board with a tree outline.
- Leaves cut from colored paper.
- Markers and glue.

#### Instructions:

1. Write acts of hospitality or examples of kindness on the leaves (e.g., "Invite someone to dinner," "Offer a helping hand").
2. Attach the leaves to the tree, representing how these actions build a community rooted in love.
3. Display the finished tree as a reminder of the importance of hospitality.

**Reflection:** How does showing hospitality help build a stronger, more loving community? What can you do to add more "leaves" to your hospitality tree?

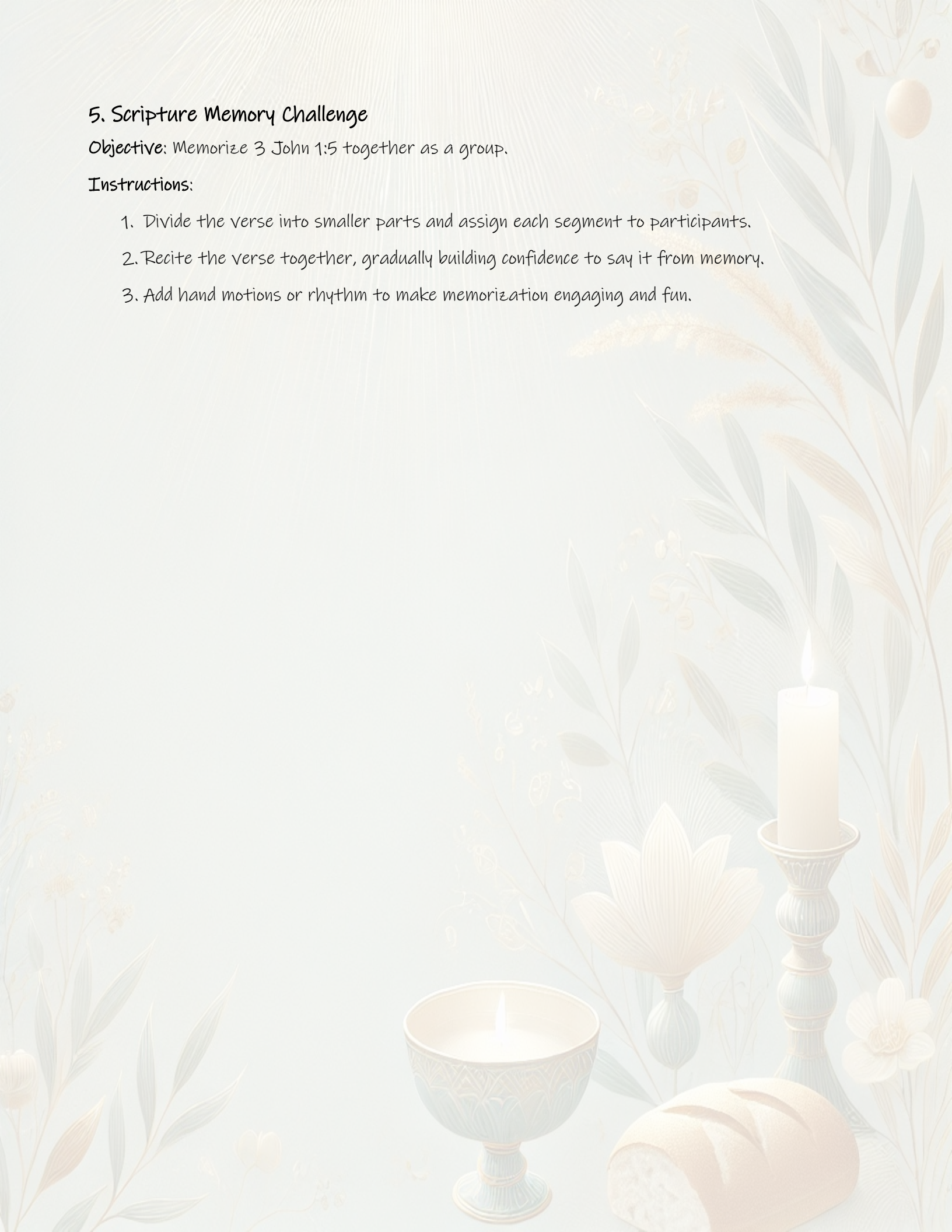


## 5. Scripture Memory Challenge

**Objective:** Memorize 3 John 1:5 together as a group.

**Instructions:**

1. Divide the verse into smaller parts and assign each segment to participants.
2. Recite the verse together, gradually building confidence to say it from memory.
3. Add hand motions or rhythm to make memorization engaging and fun.



## 6. Practical Applications

### Daily Hospitality Journal

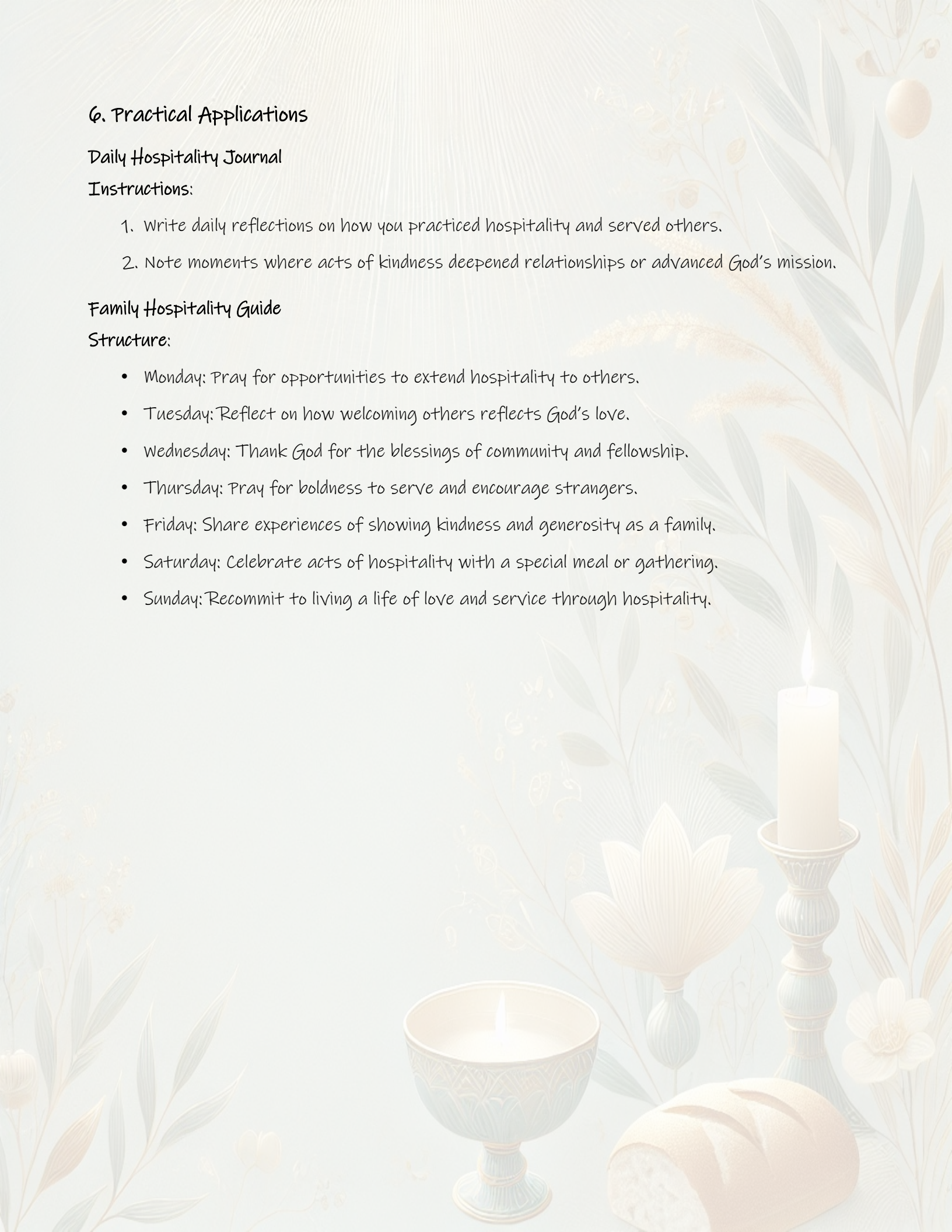
#### Instructions:

1. Write daily reflections on how you practiced hospitality and served others.
2. Note moments where acts of kindness deepened relationships or advanced God's mission.

### Family Hospitality Guide

#### Structure:

- Monday: Pray for opportunities to extend hospitality to others.
- Tuesday: Reflect on how welcoming others reflects God's love.
- Wednesday: Thank God for the blessings of community and fellowship.
- Thursday: Pray for boldness to serve and encourage strangers.
- Friday: Share experiences of showing kindness and generosity as a family.
- Saturday: Celebrate acts of hospitality with a special meal or gathering.
- Sunday: Recommit to living a life of love and service through hospitality.



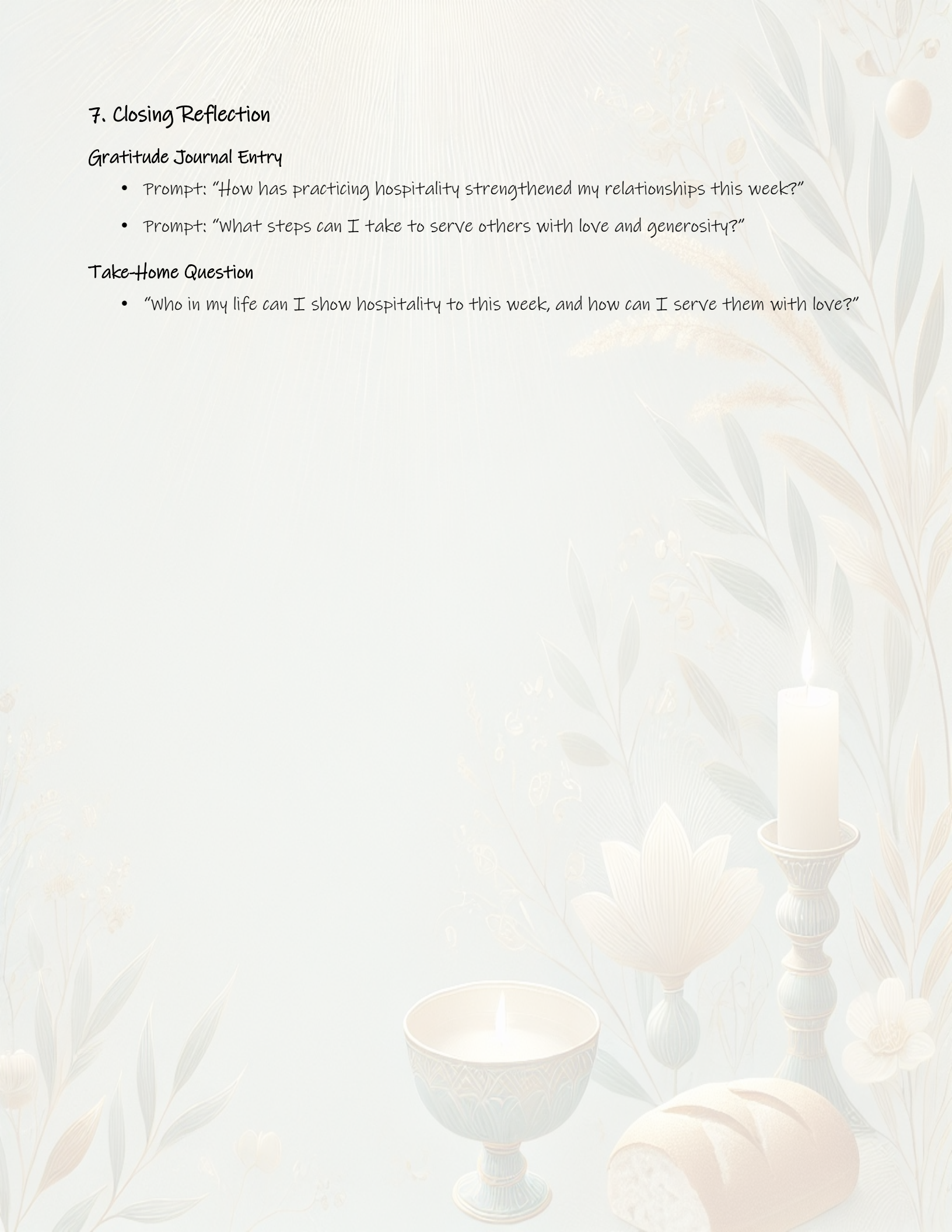
## 7. Closing Reflection

### Gratitude Journal Entry

- Prompt: "How has practicing hospitality strengthened my relationships this week?"
- Prompt: "What steps can I take to serve others with love and generosity?"

### Take-Home Question

- "Who in my life can I show hospitality to this week, and how can I serve them with love?"



## 8. Bonus Content

### Printable Coloring Page

- Design: A table set for fellowship with the memory verse 3 John 1:5 inscribed, surrounded by symbols of love and generosity.

### Encouragement Cards

- Include quotes from Scripture, such as:
  - "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).
  - "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 13:2).
  - "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9).

