

RESIST Home Gatherings – Leader + Participant Guide (Fall–Winter 2025)

Ten Home Gathering sessions starting the week of **Oct 12, 2025**, skipping first Sundays for All-Church Gatherings (**Nov 2** and **Dec 7**). Each week follows the same four-fold flow and includes chapter-aligned readings from *RESIST: Learning from the Way of Jesus*.

Weekly Flow (60–90 minutes)

- (1) **RECONNECT** – Fellowship and check-in: “Where have you experienced God at work this week? If not, where did you hope to?” + #resisting stories. Optional worship (song/prayer/creative).
- (2) **REVELATION** – Scripture (Luke–Acts), brief theme from the book, and a “faithful example” story; 3–4 discussion questions.
- (3) **RESPONSE** – Specific steps: Individually / as Households / as a Group. Pray for one another, the church, and the city.
- (4) **RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE** – Commit concrete next steps; closing question: “What did God give you today that made this time worth it?” Send out as ambassadors of reconciliation and sacred resistance.

Leaders: timebox (aim for 75 mins): Reconnect 15 • Revelation 25 • Response 20
• Reconciliation & Resistance 15. Keep a timer; land the plane with next steps.

Week 1 (Oct 12): ANNOUNCE — “Prepare the Way”

Read Before: *Ch. 2 – Announce* (+ *Why Resist?* intro if new to the group)

Read Next: *Ch. 3 – Proclaim*

Scripture: Luke 3:1–14 (John) + Luke 4:14–21 (Nazareth manifesto)

Theme (from RESIST): Repentance makes room for the Kingdom—ordinary, economic fruit (share coats, practice honesty), and Jubilee “today.”

Faithful example: Gustavo Gutiérrez (base communities; “preferential option for the poor”) or Desmond Tutu (truth + mercy).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: 2-min breath prayer (“Abba, I’m yours / Give us bread”) or sing *Be Thou My Vision*.

REVELATION – Discuss (choose 3–4):

1. Where do you hear the Spirit asking for “fruit worthy of repentance” in your week?
2. What would “Jubilee today” (release, repair) look like in our neighborhoods? City?
3. Where is your hometown pride tempted to limit God’s mercy?
4. Which shortcut (spectacle/control/compromise) most tempts you, and what’s the counter-practice?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Write a 60-second nonviolent script for a tense moment you expect this week; rehearse.
- **Households:** “Two coats” practice—name one tangible share (food, time, tools) you’ll offer.
- **Group:** Assign two people to bring a 3-minute brief next week on a local issue (food insecurity/housing).
- Prayer: identity-before-activism; ask for courage + humility.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one step before next Sunday; share “What did God give you today?”

Week 2 (Oct 19): PROCLAIM — “Jubilee in Jesus’ Mouth”

Read Before: *Ch. 3 – Proclaim*

Read Next: *Ch. 4 – Table*

Scripture: Luke 4:16–30

Theme: Jesus publicly announces good news to the poor; grace crosses our fences (widow of Zarephath, Naaman).

Faithful examples: Fannie Lou Hamer (MFDP; cooperative imagination) or Gustavo Gutiérrez (praxis: action–reflection–action).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: read Luke 4:18–19 antiphonally; simple chorus: *Build My Life*.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. What boundary do you feel when grace crosses “our” fence?
2. What would a 25-word Jubilee message be for our city?
3. Where can we move “from scroll to street” this month?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Draft a respectful one-page public ask that ties Isaiah 61 to a small, winnable local change.
- **Households:** “Today” practice—pick one neighborly act before next gathering.
- **Group:** Choose one legal aid or medical-debt relief partner to explore.
- Prayer for boldness without contempt.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Commit one public step; closing share.

Week 3 (Oct 26): TABLE — “Belonging as Protest”

Read Before: *Ch. 4 – Table*

Read Next: *Ch. 5 – Love*

Scripture: Luke 7:36–50; Luke 14:12–24

Theme: Tables tell the truth—mercy over repayment; invite the poor/overlooked first.

Faithful examples: Dorothy Day (Houses of Hospitality) and César Chávez (bread for workers, movement discipline).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: *All Are Welcome*; or name-tag exercise: “I feel most welcomed when...”.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Who is missing at our table?
2. When has forgiveness made love grow?
3. What “repayment economy” patterns do we need to replace with kinship?

RESPONSE

- **Individual/Households:** Host a simple “open table” (soup/potluck) this week; include someone new.
- **Group:** Plan a low-cost neighborhood meal by Week 6; recruit roles.
- Prayer: hospitality that protects dignity.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one guest to invite; closing share.

(Nov 2 = All-Church Gathering — No Home Gathering)

Week 4 (Nov 9): NAME — “What Is Your Name?”

Read Before: *Ch. 6 – Name*

Read Next: *Ch. 8 – Neighbor* (we’ll return to Ch. 7 during Advent)

Scripture: Luke 8:26–39

Theme: Jesus restores speech and dignity; we name powers carefully and widen care (trauma, addiction, isolation).

Faithful examples: Óscar Romero (found his voice; named injustice) and Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (naming with white scarves).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: 60-sec silence; simple Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy”).

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Where do you hear echoes of “Legion” (many-as-one) in our city?
2. What does wise, non-stigmatizing naming look like?
3. Who wants Jesus to “leave” because liberation disrupts profit?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Learn Psychological First Aid's Look–Listen–Link; carry a current resource list.
- **Households:** Host a gentle listening circle (7 minutes each; no fixing).
- **Group:** Map one “power cluster” (courts, landlords, agencies) and choose a pressure point to research.
- Prayer for healing of mind, body, and systems.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Share one person/place you'll visit this week; closing share.

Week 5 (Nov 16): NEIGHBOR — “Go and Do Likewise”

Read Before: *Ch. 8 – Neighbor*

Read Next: *Ch. 9 – Jubilee*

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37; Luke 15 (search–find–rejoice)

Theme: Neighbor is a verb—interrupt your trip, spend time and treasure, recruit an “innkeeper.”

Faithful examples: Irena Sendler (names in jars), Chiune Sugihara (visas), Besa in Albania, Sanctuary churches.

RECONNECT

Optional worship: Lectio on “moved with compassion.”

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Where is your next “inn”—a place to extend care beyond a moment?
2. Who are the shopkeepers/elders we need to meet on our ten-block map?
3. How can we avoid compassion fatigue while staying faithful?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Assemble two Samaritan kits (socks/snacks/transit card/resource list).
- **Households:** Court or clinic accompaniment once this month.

- **Group:** Pilot a 3-hour “Inn Day” (showers, laundry, hot meal, dignity-first design).
- Prayer for stamina and joy.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one neighbor act this week; closing share.

Week 6 (Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Week): JUBILEE — “Barns, Birds, and a Better Security”

Read Before: *Ch. 9 – Jubilee*

Read Next: *Ch. 1 – Magnify* (Advent shift)

Scripture: Luke 12:13–34; Luke 19:1–10

Theme: Trade worry for generosity; repentance shows up in budgets and receipts (Zacchaeus).

Faithful examples: Fannie Lou Hamer (Freedom Farm / pig bank) and John Perkins (relocation, reconciliation, redistribution).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: Gratitude litany; write 3 thank-you notes to unseen workers.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Where is our community building bigger barns instead of bigger tables?
2. What would “Zacchaeus math” look like for you?
3. What single asset could we convert into mercy *this week*?

RESPONSE

- **Individual/Households:** Convert one stored asset into help with relational follow-up.
- **Group:** Add/boost a “Repair & Mercy” budget line and approve one proposal before Advent 1.
- Prayer of thanksgiving; bless the city’s most vulnerable.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one reallocation you’ll make; closing share.

Week 7 (Nov 30 – Advent 1: HOPE): MAGNIFY — “Mary’s Song as Training”

Read Before: *Ch. 1 – Magnify*

Read Next: *Ch. 7 – Witness*

Scripture: Luke 1:46–55

Theme: Hope before the evidence; God remembers mercy and lifts the lowly—sing it into policy and practice.

Faithful examples: Sojourner Truth (voice that walked) and Ida B. Wells (ledger and lamp).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: Light the Hope candle; chant the Magnificat.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Which Magnificat verb (“lifted,” “filled,” “sent away”) confronts you?
2. What’s one budget/house rule that would honor the Magnificat?
3. What song or ritual helps your hope outlast the headlines?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Pray/sing the Magnificat daily this week.
- **Households:** “Table-as-sanctuary” meal with newcomers/elders.
- **Group:** Choose one Advent action that “fills the hungry with good things.”
- Prayer for those on the margins of holidays.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one Magnificat move this week; closing share.

(Dec 7 = All-Church Gathering — No Home Gathering)

Week 8 (Dec 14 – Advent 3: JOY): WITNESS — “Daughters of Abraham Stand Tall”

Read Before: *Ch. 7 – Witness*

Read Next: *Ch. 10 – Pray*

Scripture: Luke 13:10–17; Luke 24:1–11

Theme: Without women there is no movement—funders, teachers, first evangelists; joy strengthens public courage.

Faithful examples: Ida B. Wells (believe women) and Mary McLeod Bethune (schools that built a nation).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: Read/sing the Magnificat as a joy song; or carol “Joy to the World” noticing reversal.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Where do we need to shift voice and resources so “daughters of Abraham” stand tall among us?
2. What does believing women require in practice (policies, budgets, pulpits)?
3. How can joy (not hype) fuel perseverance this week?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Encourage and tangibly support one woman leading near you.
- **Households:** Offer childcare/transport so a woman can attend/lead.
- **Group:** Fund stipends or coaching for women leaders; adopt clear survivor-centered policies.
- Prayer of joy and protection.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one witness you’ll amplify; closing share.

Week 9 (Dec 21 – Advent 4/Christmas): PRAY — “Daily Bread, Bold Love”

Read Before: *Ch. 10 – Pray*

Read Next: *Ch. 11 – Organize* (and skim *Ch. 13 – Resist*)

Scripture: Luke 2:8–20 (Christmas); Luke 11:1–4; Luke 18:1–8; Acts 4:23–31

Theme: Prayer forms public courage—daily bread for bodies, boldness without contempt, persistence that walks.

Faithful examples: Howard Thurman (inner sea), Rabbi A. J. Heschel (“I prayed with my legs”), Wangari Maathai (trees that pray).

RECONNECT

Optional worship: Light four candles (Hope/Peace/Joy/Love); read John 1:14; Christmas carol.

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Which line of the Lord’s Prayer resists your city’s idols right now?
2. Where could you “pray with your legs” this week (presence over presents)?
3. What boldness do we need God to give?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** 5×/day breath prayer rhythm through Christmas week.
- **Households:** Presence visits (lonely neighbor/elder) + “bread packs.”
- **Group:** Christmas vigil of prayer + caroling with a concrete ask for neighborhood good.
- Prayer for one another, the church, and the city.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one presence you’ll bring this week; closing share.

Week 10 (Dec 28 – New Year): ORGANIZE + DISCERN — “Sustaining the Fire”

Read Before: *Ch. 11 – Organize + Ch. 12 – Discern*

Read Next: *Ch. 13 – Resist + Next Steps: Walking the Way, Together*

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47; Acts 6:1–7; Acts 15:28–29

Theme: Koinonia needs calendars and consensus—love keeps promises with structure and Spirit.

Faithful examples: Ella Baker (participatory democracy) and Leymah Gbowee (women in white).

RECONNECT

Optional worship/activity: New-Year Examen (Where was I most/least alive with Jesus? What grace do I ask for in 2026?).

REVELATION – Discuss:

1. Who is getting missed in our “daily distribution,” and how will we fix it?
2. What rotating roles/structures would make us “one accord” in practice?
3. Where do we need to say, “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” and lower burdens?

RESPONSE

- **Individual:** Draft a simple Rule of Life (daily prayer, weekly table, monthly justice, quarterly retreat) and share it.
- **Households:** Choose two practices (Sabbath meal; monthly serve).
- **Group:** Launch a 90-day pilot using consensus (Fist-to-Five), a participatory budget slice (5–10%), and a Diakonia Team (rotating 7–12 people). Schedule Jan–Mar dates now.
- Prayer of commissioning over each person.

RECONCILIATION & RESISTANCE

Name one January commitment and a check-in partner; closing share & sending with 2 Corinthians 5:18–20.

Leader Notes & Helps (quick reference)

- **Timeboxing:** Reconnect 15 • Revelation 25 • Response 20 • Recon.&Resist. 15.
 - **Roles to rotate:** facilitator, timekeeper, Scripture reader(s), host(s), prayer lead, vibes-watcher, scribe.
 - **Accessibility:** hybrid option, allergy-aware snacks, dignity-first seating; offer rides/childcare as possible.
 - **Meeting covenant:** truth without contempt; protect the vulnerable; do no harm; repair when you do; act together; keep joy on the table.
 - **Follow-up:** Send BIFF recap within 24 hours (who/what/when).
 - **Hashtag rhythm:** Encourage #resisting stories in group chat during the week.
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Reading Plan Summary

1. Oct 12 – Ch. 2 **Announce** (Intro/**Why Resist?** optional) → Next: Ch. 3 **Proclaim**
2. Oct 19 – Ch. 3 **Proclaim** → Next: Ch. 4 **Table**
3. Oct 26 – Ch. 4 **Table** → Next: Ch. 5 **Love**
4. Nov 9 – Ch. 6 **Name** → Next: Ch. 8 **Neighbor**
5. Nov 16 – Ch. 8 **Neighbor** → Next: Ch. 9 **Jubilee**
6. Nov 23 – Ch. 9 **Jubilee** → Next: Ch. 1 **Magnify**
7. Nov 30 – Ch. 1 **Magnify** → Next: Ch. 7 **Witness**
8. Dec 14 – Ch. 7 **Witness** → Next: Ch. 10 **Pray**
9. Dec 21 – Ch. 10 **Pray** → Next: Ch. 11 **Organize** (+ skim Ch. 13 **Resist**)
10. Dec 28 – Ch. 11 **Organize** + Ch. 12 **Discern** → Next: Ch. 13 **Resist** + **Next Steps**