



Opening Prayer

Lord, you know our hearts better than we know ourselves. You see the walls we build, the masks we wear, and the fears that keep us from truly connecting. Help us love one another the way you've loved us—messy, real, and without condition. Give us courage for the hard conversations and grace for the awkward moments. Amen.



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Scripture Reading

John 13:34-35 (ESV) – "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Amos 3:3 – "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

Devotional Thought

Let's be honest about something: you can't fake chemistry on stage. I've been in too many ministry teams where everyone was technically brilliant but spiritually disconnected.

The congregation could sense it—that awkward energy when leaders are performing together but not actually with each other. Before we step onto any platform, we've got to learn the sacred art of walking alongside one another. Worship ministry as an example isn't just about nailing the key changes or hitting the high notes—it's about leading people into an encounter with God from a place of genuine relational harmony.

Here's what I've learnt from years of ministry in Singapore, working with people from different cultures: you can't give what you don't have. When leaders don't honestly know the strengths, struggles, and stories of their team members, their leadership becomes either controlling (gatekeeping everyone) or careless (releasing people before they're ready).

Building real community isn't about forced fellowship or awkward team bonding exercises. It's about creating space for honest conversations, healthy accountability, and love that shows up in practical ways. The goal isn't just musical alignment—it's spiritual unity that the congregation can feel.

Reflection and Application

Personal Reflection Questions:

- Take an honest inventory: how well do you know the people you serve with? Not just their musical abilities, but their dreams, fears, and what makes them come alive?
- Are there any relational gaps or unresolved tensions that you've been avoiding? What's the Holy Spirit highlighting to you right now?
- When was the last time you invested in someone on your team outside of rehearsal or ministry context?

This Week's Challenge: Pick one person from your ministry team and intentionally invest in relationship with them. This could look like:

- Grabbing coffee and asking about their story (not their musical background—their actual story)
- Texting encouragement that has nothing to do with their performance
- Asking how they're really doing and listening to the answer
- Finding out what they're passionate about outside of music and engaging with that

Team Application: If you're leading a team, consider organising something that builds genuine connection—maybe a shared meal, a walk, or even watching a film together. Create space for people to be human, not just functional.

Daily Playlist for Reflection:

- "Build My Life" - Housefires
- "Heart of Worship" - Matt Redman
- "Beautiful Things" - Gungor
- "At All Times" - Victory Worship

Closing Prayer

Father, we confess that sometimes we're better at doing work together with others than we are at connecting relationally. Grow our love for one another. Help us see each team member as you see them—not just for what they can contribute, but for who they are in you. As we prepare for inHabit, weave our hearts together in unity so that your presence flows through us unhindered. Make us a team that people want to be part of, not because we're perfect, but because your love is genuinely alive among us. Amen.