



**DWELLO**



## **The Good Roommate Handbook**

*A Guide to Faith-Centered Living Under One Roof*

[dwello.faith](https://dwello.faith)

Built with care in Missoula, Montana

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# 1. Welcome to Dwello

Dwello exists because we believe your home should be more than a place to sleep. It should be a place where your faith is strengthened, where community is built, and where the gospel shapes the rhythms of daily life.

We connect believers looking for roommates who share their faith and values. Verified profiles, church references, and values-based matching help you find people you can actually trust. But finding a good roommate is only the beginning. Living well together—that’s where the real work starts.

This handbook is designed to help you thrive as a Christian roommate. Whether you are sharing a home for the first time or the tenth, the principles here are rooted in Scripture and refined by the wisdom of the church. Our goal is simple: to help you dwell together in unity, glorifying God in the ordinary, day-to-day realities of shared life.

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!” — Psalm 133:1*

## How to Use This Handbook

This guide is meant to be read before you move in with a roommate—and then returned to throughout your time together. Some sections are practical (household logistics, financial agreements, guest policies), while others are more formational (conflict resolution, spiritual rhythms, hospitality). Together, they offer a comprehensive picture of what it looks like to share a home as a follower of Jesus.

We recommend reading it alongside the Dwello Voluntary Christian Roommate Agreement, which provides a framework for the commitments you and your roommate make to one another. Think of this handbook as the “why” and “how” behind that agreement.

## 2. Our Mission & Vision

### Why Dwello Exists

Dwello is a faith-centered roommate marketplace built on trust. Every member verifies their identity and has the option to receive confirmation from a pastor or elder in their church community. This dual verification—government ID plus church leadership confirmation—means that when you connect with someone on Dwello, you are connecting with a real person who is genuinely embedded in a local church body.

We are not just a housing platform. We are a ministry tool. Dwello operates under the oversight of Sovereign Hope Church in Missoula, Montana—a church captivated by the beauty of the

gospel and devoted to helping people experience gospel change for all of life. Profits from Dwello support gospel work rather than enriching shareholders. When you use Dwello, you are participating in something that extends far beyond finding a place to live.

## What We Believe

Dwello's theological convictions are rooted in the historic Christian faith. We affirm the full authority and sufficiency of Scripture as God's inspired Word and our ultimate authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, that He lived a sinless life, died as the substitute to pay the penalty for our sin, physically rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.

We believe the gospel is the life-transforming good news of Jesus Christ—that by His perfect obedience and substitutionary death, He satisfied the righteous wrath of God on our behalf, and His righteousness can now be credited to us by grace through faith. We believe God created human beings, male and female, in His own image, and that marriage is the lifelong covenantal union of one man and one woman. These convictions shape everything we do, including our same-gender matching policy.

For our complete Statement of Faith, visit [dwello.faith/statement-of-faith](https://dwello.faith/statement-of-faith).

## Our Goals for You

- **Gospel-shaped community:** That your home would be a place where the gospel is not just believed but lived—in kindness, in conflict resolution, in generosity, and in mutual encouragement.
- **Genuine accountability:** That you and your roommate would spur one another on toward love and good deeds, speaking the truth in love and bearing one another's burdens.
- **Practical wisdom:** That this handbook would equip you with tools, frameworks, and rhythms to navigate shared life with grace and maturity.
- **Church connection:** That your living situation would support—not replace—your involvement in a local church where you are known, loved, and shepherded.
- **Missional hospitality:** That your home would become a place of welcome—not just for each other, but for neighbors, friends, and anyone whom God brings to your door.

## 3. What Makes a Good Christian Roommate?

Being a good roommate is not primarily about keeping a clean kitchen or paying rent on time—though those things matter. At its core, being a good Christian roommate means applying the

gospel to the closest quarters of your life. It means treating the person across the hall with the same grace that God has lavished on you in Christ.

The apostle Paul gives us a roadmap in Colossians 3:12–14. Though he was not writing to roommates specifically, his words describe exactly the posture that makes shared life flourish:

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” — Colossians 3:12–14*

## Compassion

Compassion is the ability to enter into another person’s experience—their joys, their sorrows, their stress—and to sit with them in it. It is the kind of care that Jesus Himself shows toward His people’s weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). A compassionate roommate notices when something is off, asks genuine questions, and resists the urge to make every conversation about themselves. Biblical sympathy is not detached or merely cerebral—it stirs us to action, moving us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15).

## Kindness

Kindness is compassion in action. It means showing through your words and behavior that even when things are tense, you still care. It means guarding your tone, your body language, and your thoughts. A kind roommate does the dishes not because it is their turn, but because it serves the other person. Constructive communication is so often undermined as both parties stew in hurt and frustration. Kindness confronts those thoughts, reminds itself that we too are sinners in desperate need of grace, and chooses words that build up rather than tear down (Proverbs 16:24).

## Humility

Humility means recognizing that you, too, are a sinner who desperately needs grace (Romans 3:23). A humble roommate does not insist on always being right. They are willing to adapt, to compromise on preferences, and to place the other person’s needs alongside their own. Pride is the single greatest obstacle to healthy roommate relationships—it makes us defensive, resistant to feedback, and unwilling to admit fault. Humility disarms all of that. The path to peace in most relational conflicts requires us to honestly admit our own deep flaws and let our “dream community” die so that we can love the real community God has given us.

## Patience

Your roommate will have habits that frustrate you. They may struggle with the same things for years. A patient roommate remembers that God does not cast us off when we repeat the same sins—He promises never to leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). People tend to struggle with the same things throughout their lives. Patience allows us to continue offering grace even when it does not appear to yield immediate results, trusting that God is at work in both of us.

## **Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is the heartbeat of Christian community. You will wrong your roommate, and your roommate will wrong you. The question is not whether this will happen, but how you will respond when it does. The gospel gives us the pattern: God forgave us at infinite cost to Himself, canceling the record of debt that stood against us by nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2:13–14). He then calls us to take that grace we have received vertically and extend it horizontally. A forgiving roommate does not keep a mental ledger of wrongs. Not every hurt needs a formal conversation—sometimes love simply covers an offense and moves on (Proverbs 19:11). But when forgiveness is needed, it is offered freely, because we have been forgiven freely.

## **Faithfulness**

A faithful roommate keeps their commitments—paying rent on time, honoring shared agreements, following through on what they say they will do. Faithfulness also means staying engaged when things get hard rather than withdrawing into isolation. Christian community is not something we do when it is convenient; it is a commitment we maintain because God’s grace sustains us through difficult seasons. We must not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another all the more (Hebrews 10:24–25).

## **Hospitality**

Biblical hospitality is not about having a Pinterest-worthy apartment or serving gourmet meals. The Greek word for hospitality—*philoxenia*—literally means “love of strangers,” the direct opposite of *xenophobia*. A hospitable roommate sees their home not as a private retreat to guard, but as a resource to share. It means welcoming others in, making space at the table, and using your home as a place where people encounter the love of Christ. Christians are both recipients and conduits of God’s hospitality—the welcome we have received from Christ compels us to welcome others.

## 4. Practical Guidelines for Shared Living

Gospel-centered character needs practical scaffolding. The following guidelines will help you and your roommate establish clear expectations and avoid the most common friction points in shared housing.

### Before You Move In

#### Have the Hard Conversations Early

Before you sign a lease together, sit down and talk honestly about the things that matter most in daily life. Use Dwello’s compatibility questionnaire results as a starting point, but go deeper. Discuss finances, schedules, cleanliness standards, guest policies, and personal boundaries. It is far easier to establish expectations before you are living together than to renegotiate them after tension has built up.

#### Key Topics to Cover

Topic	Questions to Discuss
Finances	How will rent and utilities be split? Who handles payments? What happens if someone is late?
Cleanliness	What standard of clean is acceptable? How will chores be divided? How often should shared spaces be cleaned?
Guests & Visitors	What are the expectations for overnight guests? How much notice should be given? What are the boundaries?
Schedules	What are your work schedules? Morning person or night owl? What are quiet hours?
Shared Items	What will be shared (food, supplies, furniture)? What is personal? How will shared purchases be handled?
Boundaries	Do you need notice before someone enters your room? How do you prefer to communicate concerns?
Faith Practices	Do you want to pray together? Attend church together? Have a shared devotional rhythm?

### While You Live Together

#### Communication

Most roommate conflicts stem from unspoken expectations. Commit to proactive, honest communication. If something bothers you, say so early—with kindness—rather than letting resentment build. Choose your timing wisely: some people are morning people, and starting a

hard conversation late at night will not go well. Use words that build up, not words that accuse (Ephesians 4:29).

### Shared Finances

- **Set clear terms early:** Agree on how rent, utilities, groceries, and shared expenses will be split. Put it in writing.
- **Pay on time:** This is a matter of integrity. If financial hardship arises, communicate immediately rather than going silent.
- **Keep records:** Use a shared spreadsheet or app to track expenses and avoid confusion about who owes what.

### Household Responsibilities

Approach chores as an act of service, not a burden to resent. Galatians 5:13 tells us to serve one another through love. Create a simple chore rotation or division of labor that feels fair to both parties. Be willing to pick up the slack when your roommate is going through a busy or difficult season—they will do the same for you.

### Respecting Space & Boundaries

Living in close quarters requires intentionality about personal space. Respect closed doors. Ask before borrowing. Give each other room to decompress after a long day. A good roommate understands that healthy boundaries are not walls—they are the foundation that allows genuine closeness to develop safely.

## 5. Conflict Resolution: A Biblical Framework

Conflict between roommates is not a sign that something has gone wrong—it is an inevitable feature of living in close community with another fallen human being. The question is never whether conflict will arise, but how you will handle it when it does. Scripture gives us a clear framework, and the gospel gives us the power to follow it.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” — Matthew 5:9

### Why Conflict Matters

Few things drain our joy or distract our minds more than relational conflict. And yet, the history of God’s people shows that some of the greatest moments of grace came through—not around—conflict. The early church faced tensions between Hebrews and Greeks in Acts 6, disputes over circumcision in Acts 15, and direct confrontation between Paul and Peter in Galatians 2. In every case, the path forward was not avoidance but engagement—and each conflict became a catalyst for the advancement of the gospel.

The same can be true in your home. Conflict is an opportunity for grace. The hardest conversations are often the moments when the light of God’s grace shines its brightest.

## The Dwello Three-Step Process

Drawn from the pattern Jesus outlined in Matthew 18:15–17, our conflict resolution framework moves from private to communal as needed. This process is also outlined in the Dwello Voluntary Christian Roommate Agreement:

### Step 1: Direct Conversation

If you have a concern about your roommate’s behavior, address it privately and directly with gentleness and clarity, seeking understanding and resolution. Go to them—do not go to others first. Do not text about it in a group chat. Do not stew in silence. Choose a good time, use kind words, and lead with humility. Remember: you are not the prosecutor. You are a fellow sinner who wants to understand and be reconciled.

*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” — Matthew 18:15*

### Step 2: Mediated Discussion

If the concern remains unresolved after direct conversation, invite one or two mature Christian friends or mentors to help facilitate discussion. These mediators are not judges—they are peacemakers who help both parties see clearly, communicate honestly, and move toward reconciliation.

### Step 3: Church Involvement

If the matter remains unresolved and is serious enough to warrant further intervention, involve church leadership for counsel and accountability. This step is reserved for significant ongoing issues, not minor household disagreements. Your pastor or elders can provide wisdom, perspective, and loving accountability.

## Important Principles for Conflict

**The goal is always restoration, not punishment.** Minor frustrations should be handled with direct communication, grace, and a quick spirit of forgiveness. Not every annoyance needs a formal conversation—sometimes love simply bears with one another’s quirks (Colossians 3:13).

**Move toward conflict, not away from it.** Avoidance does not make conflict go away. It festers. It deepens. Wisdom calls us to address things honestly and promptly.

**Own your part.** Pride keeps us from admitting fault. The peacemakers who shine brightest are those who humbly confess their own sin, not just those who identify the other person’s.

**Guard your tongue.** Replace “You always...” with “I feel...” and “Can we talk about...” Pray before you speak. Ask God to make your words a means of grace (Ephesians 4:29).

**Be patient with patterns.** People tend to struggle with the same things for years. Are you willing to be as patient with your roommate as God is being patient with you?

## 6. Hospitality & Your Home as Ministry

Your home is not just where you live—it is where ministry happens. Throughout Scripture, hospitality is presented not as a nice extra but as a mark of spiritual maturity and a command for every believer. The early church in Acts 2 devoted themselves to fellowship and to breaking bread in their homes, and the result was a community so compelling that outsiders were continually drawn in.

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” — Hebrews 13:2*

### What Biblical Hospitality Looks Like

Biblical hospitality—*philoxenia* in the Greek—is fundamentally about making space for others. It does not require a big apartment, a talent for cooking, or an Instagram-worthy living room. It requires an open heart and a willingness to share what you have. Our modern understanding of hospitality—vacation resorts and perfect entertaining—is almost the opposite of the biblical concept. True hospitality is about welcoming the stranger, not impressing the friend. Your space need not be perfect. The welcome itself is what matters.

Essentially, hospitality is opening up not only our homes but, more importantly, our very selves to others so that they feel welcomed, loved, cared for, and valued. As roommates, you have a unique opportunity to practice hospitality together:

- **Open your table:** Invite people over for simple meals. A pot of soup and genuine conversation will go further than a five-course dinner served with anxiety.
- **Be present:** When guests are in your home, put your phone down. Engage in meaningful conversation. Cultivating active listening skills and taking a genuine interest in others is one of the most powerful forms of hospitality.
- **Welcome the unexpected:** Some of the most meaningful moments of ministry happen when someone shows up in need. Build a household culture that says “you are welcome here.”
- **Partner together:** Hospitality is often best practiced as a community. Work with your roommate to host rather than viewing hospitality as an individual effort.
- **Bring your authentic self:** Pretending to be something you are not does not give life to others. Welcome people into your real life, not a curated version of it.

## Your Home as Gospel Witness

The early Christians did not grow their community through outreach programs—people were attracted to their transformed lives. Believers shared meals, cared for the poor, and loved one another with uncommon generosity, and outsiders wanted to be part of it. Your household can be a similar testimony. When non-Christian friends, coworkers, or neighbors experience the warmth, generosity, and peace of a Christ-centered home, they encounter the gospel in tangible form.

God is the ultimate host. In the ultimate act of hospitality, He provided a way to welcome us—strangers and aliens in the Egypt of sin and death—through the death of Jesus Christ. Christ entered the ultimate homelessness for us on the cross. The hospitality we have received from Him serves as the impetus for all hospitality, from large-scale acts of service to simply inviting a neighbor over for coffee. Let that shape how you open your door.

*“Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” — Romans 15:7*

## 7. Spiritual Rhythms for the Household

One of the greatest privileges of living with a fellow believer is the opportunity to grow together spiritually. This does not mean your home needs to feel like a monastery. It means building intentional rhythms that keep your shared life oriented toward Christ.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” — Hebrews 10:24–25*

### Prayer

Commit to praying for each other—and when appropriate, praying together. This does not need to be long or formal. A brief prayer before a meal, a quick text asking, “How can I pray for you today?” or a few minutes of shared prayer before bed can profoundly shape the atmosphere of your home.

### Scripture

Consider reading the Bible together—even informally. You might follow the same reading plan and discuss it over breakfast or simply share a verse that struck you during your quiet time. Sovereign Hope Church offers Bible reading and memory plans that could serve as a shared framework for your household.

### Church Involvement

Your roommate relationship should be embedded in a local church, not a replacement for it. Attend weekly worship faithfully. Get involved in a community group or small group. Sovereign

Hope describes their community groups as seasonal gatherings that help people step into the life of the church—sharing food, prayer, and conversation that points to Christ. Find something like that in your city and participate.

Make the decision to be present at church and in community, and then let it become a rhythm you do not reconsider every week. Get habit working for your spiritual health, not against it. Your roommate can help you stay accountable to that commitment.

### Encouragement & Accountability

Christian community is not just about being together—it is about provoking one another to love and good deeds. The original language of Hebrews 10:24 is striking: the word translated “stir up” literally means “provoke.” We are called to get close enough to know each other deeply, and to speak words that build up, as fits the occasion, that they may give grace to those who hear (Ephesians 4:29).

This means being willing to ask hard questions, to confess your own struggles, and to receive correction with humility. Our private willpower often fails us. What we need is to come together and, with no coercion or shaming, be honest about where we are falling short. Your roommate can be one of the people God uses to keep you walking with Christ.

## 8. The Dwello Roommate Agreement

Dwello provides a Voluntary Christian Roommate Agreement that you and your roommate can sign together. This agreement is entirely optional and carries no legal weight. It serves as a voluntary expression of shared commitment to Christ-like living and biblical community. Either party may discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

The agreement covers the following core commitments:

- **Love and Respect:** Treating each other with the love, kindness, and respect that Christ modeled (John 13:34–35).
- **Honesty and Integrity:** Truthfulness in words and actions, maintaining trust in the household (Ephesians 4:25–32).
- **Mutual Encouragement:** Spurring one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- **Practical Service:** Sharing household responsibilities fairly and serving one another in humility (Galatians 5:13–14).
- **Purity and Wisdom:** Maintaining a home environment that honors God in entertainment choices, guest policies, and lifestyle practices (1 Thessalonians 4:3–7).
- **Prayer and Community:** Praying for each other and, when appropriate, praying together for household needs.

The agreement also includes the three-step biblical conflict resolution process described in Section 5 of this handbook, grounded in Matthew 18:15–17.

You can access and print the agreement through your Dwello account or by visiting [dwello.faith](https://dwello.faith). We strongly encourage every roommate pair to review, discuss, and sign it together as a way of starting your shared life on a foundation of mutual intentionality and gospel commitment.

## 9. Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does it mean to be a “good Christian roommate”?**

It means applying the gospel to the everyday realities of shared life. A good Christian roommate practices compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness—the same virtues Paul describes in Colossians 3:12–14. Practically, it means communicating honestly, serving generously, keeping commitments, and pursuing reconciliation when conflict arises. It does not mean being perfect; it means being someone who is growing in Christ and willing to extend the same grace they have received.

### **Do I have to pray or do devotions with my roommate?**

No. The Roommate Agreement includes a commitment to pray for each other, but shared spiritual practices are a matter of mutual agreement. Some roommates find great joy in praying together or attending the same church. Others prefer a more independent spiritual life while still encouraging one another. Talk about it openly and find a rhythm that works for both of you.

### **What if my roommate and I attend different churches?**

That is completely fine. Dwello’s church verification confirms that each member is actively involved in a local church, but it does not require roommates to attend the same one. What matters is that you are both plugged in to a community of believers where you are known, loved, and held accountable.

### **What if my roommate is going through a hard season?**

This is exactly when the gospel is most needed—and most tested. Patience, compassion, and forbearance are the calling of every Christian (Colossians 3:12–13). Sit with your roommate in their struggle. Ask how you can help. Pray for them. At the same time, be honest about your own needs and limits. If the situation becomes unmanageable, involve a trusted mentor or church leader—not to punish, but to help both of you find a path forward.

### **How does Dwello’s verification process work?**

Every member completes an identity verification (a government-issued ID check) and has the option for church verification (a pastor or elder from your church confirms your involvement).

This dual process ensures that every person on the platform is who they say they are and is genuinely embedded in a local church body. Optional background checks are also available.

### **Why is Dwello same gender only?**

Dwello connects men with men and women with women. This is a simple boundary that reflects shared convictions about purity, wisdom, and honoring God in our living arrangements (1 Thessalonians 4:3–7). It is designed to protect both parties and create a housing environment that aligns with biblical principles.

### **Is the Roommate Agreement legally binding?**

No. The Dwello Voluntary Christian Roommate Agreement is entirely non-binding and carries no legal weight. Either party may discontinue participation at any time without penalty. It is a voluntary expression of shared commitment—a covenant between roommates and before God, not a contract enforceable in court.

### **What if things are not working out?**

Not every roommate relationship will last forever, and that is okay. If, after honest effort, prayer, and the conflict resolution process, you and your roommate determine that living together is no longer the best arrangement, part ways with grace and without bitterness. Fulfill any legal lease obligations, communicate clearly about timelines, and resist the urge to assign blame. Sometimes the most loving thing is to acknowledge that a season has ended and to bless each other as you move on.

### **How is Dwello connected to Sovereign Hope Church?**

Dwello operates under the oversight of Sovereign Hope Church in Missoula, Montana. This means Dwello's theological framework, ethical standards, and ministry direction are guided by the church's leadership. Sovereign Hope is a church devoted to the glory of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and their oversight ensures that Dwello remains aligned with its mission as a ministry tool. Profits from Dwello support gospel work and ministry initiatives.

### **How can I make the most of my Dwello experience?**

Complete your profile thoroughly and honestly—the more information you share about your faith background, living preferences, and what you are looking for, the better Dwello can help you find a compatible match. Take the verification process seriously. Use this handbook as a conversation starter with potential roommates. And remember: the goal is not just to find someone to split rent with, but to find someone to share life with in a way that points you both toward Christ.

## 10. Resources & Recommended Reading

The following resources have informed this handbook and can help you continue growing as a Christian roommate, community member, and follower of Jesus.

### Key Scripture Passages

- Colossians 3:12–17 — The posture of Christian community
- Hebrews 10:24–25 — Stirring one another to love and good deeds
- Matthew 18:15–17 — The framework for biblical conflict resolution
- Romans 12:9–21 — The marks of genuine love in community
- Galatians 5:13–14 — Serving one another through love
- Hebrews 13:1–14 — The call to hospitality
- 1 Peter 4:8–9 — Loving earnestly and showing hospitality without grumbling
- Psalm 133:1 — The beauty of dwelling together in unity
- Acts 2:42–47 — The pattern of the early church community

### Online Resources

- **Dwello** — [dwello.faith](http://dwello.faith) — Faith-centered roommate matching platform.
- **Sovereign Hope Church** — [sovereignhope.church](http://sovereignhope.church) — Dwello’s partner church in Missoula, MT. Sermons, articles, community groups, and Bible reading plans.
- **Desiring God** — [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org) — Articles, sermons, and resources on Christian living, community, forgiveness, and conflict resolution.
- **Gospel in Life** — [gospelinlife.com](http://gospelinlife.com) — Sermons and resources from Tim Keller on Christian community, hospitality, and gospel-centered living.

### Recommended Books

- The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict — Ken Sande
- Life Together — Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- The Meaning of Marriage — Timothy Keller
- Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands — Paul David Tripp
- Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition — Christine Pohl
- The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community — Alexander Strauch



*More than roommates.*

[dwello.faith](https://dwello.faith)

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