

Habitat's biblical foundations

Our mission statement

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

At Habitat for Humanity, we choose to provide shelter as our means of demonstrating the love of Jesus to those who lack a decent place to live. Unapologetically Christian and radically inclusive, we value all people and welcome everyone to our work. Following



the model of perfect love shown to us in Jesus, we seek to live out our faith in a way that is liberating, not limiting.

The Scripture passages that follow support our core documents and provide biblical answers to the question of why we do our work.

Unless otherwise noted, passages are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Seeking to put God's love into action

We love God

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. (Matthew 22:37-38)

We respond joyfully with compassionate acts

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:14, 17)

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. (1 John 3:18)

We are called to be bold

"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go." (Joshua 1:7)

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

We must also be humble

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted. (Matthew 23:11-12)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)

And we are called to be generous

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. (Deuteronomy 15:7-8)

"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11)

... Habitat for Humanity brings people together

We love our neighbors

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

We come together as one to serve as the body of Christ

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

(Romans 12:4-5)

We open our arms wide

The parable of the Good Samaritan (which teaches that we are all called to be good neighbors) ends with Jesus asking who was the neighbor in the story. The lawyer who began the conversation answered, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37)

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

... to build homes, communities and hope.

We build peace, reconciliation and restoration

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV)

My whole being will exclaim,
"Who is like you, LORD?
You rescue the poor from those too strong
for them,

the poor and needy from those who rob them." (Psalm 35:10, NIV)

We challenge injustice and advocate for others

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8, ESV)

Queen Esther [who risked her life to petition the king on behalf of her people] answered, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O King, and if it please the king, give me my life, and give my people their lives." (Esther 7:3, The Message)