

Hospitality

Hospitality creates a safe, open space where a friend or stranger can enter and experience the welcoming spirit of Christ in another.

Explore: To be a safe person who offers other the grace, shelter, and presence of Jesus.

Scripture:

- “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God.” Romans 15:7
- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all of your mind and with all of your strength ... Love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:30-31

Includes:

- Sharing your home, food, resources, car and all that you call your own so that another might experience the reality of God’s welcoming heart.
- Loving, not entertaining, the guest.
- Welcoming others into your clique, group, club, and life.

Fruits:

- Living the truth that all you have belongs to God.
- Providing a safe place for people in an unsafe world.
- Loving people rather than trying to impress them.

Methods to practice Hospitality:

1. Remember a time you have been deeply welcome and received. Recount the circumstances and the way people reach out to you. Picture where Jesus was in this event. Let God touch you again with this welcome and love.
2. Develop a practice of praying for the people you invite to your home. Pray for them as you invite them. Pray for them the day they come. Pray for them as they leave.
3. Develop a list of standard conversational questions (other than, “What do you do?”) that can open people up to one another. How do the questions you ask bring welcome rather than comparison?
4. Help your children grow in understanding God’s hospitable heart. Help them plan a party for their friends. Encourage them to think about what will make each one feel special and welcome.
5. Have a “craving potluck.” Invite guests to bring something they crave. Don’t try to make it perfect. Focus on the guests ... not the food or what your house looks like.

*Calhoun & Mains, Opening Our Hearts and Homes
Pohl, Making Room*

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