

Practicing the Christian Life: Hospitality

Hebrews 13:1-5

8/6/23

Discussion Questions

Prepare:

Share a time when you were moved by another person's hospitality.

Passage:

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have..."

1. What kind of family did you grow up in? Were your parents entertainers? Did they have people over a lot, sometimes, rarely or never? Did they open their home to others in order to bless them in some way or get to know them better?
2. How good are you at showing hospitality? Is it natural to you or do you struggle opening your home and self to people you don't know?
3. Is our culture being more or less hospitable towards each other and towards the "stranger?" Why do you think that is?
4. Talk about the principle that undergirds everything we do, including the offering of hospitality:
*"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."* I Corinthians 6:19-20
5. *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* (vs. 2) In the old NIV it says: *"entertain strangers."*

Do you think you've ever "entertained angels unaware?"

Practicing the Christian Life: Hospitality

Hebrews 13:1-5

8/6/23

6. Talk about the four parts to entertaining strangers, inviting people into your home: Invitation, screening, provision, and departure. How can we apply each part today when it comes to offering hospitality to others?
7. Talk about the wisdom in how homes were constructed so people could offer hospitality while keeping their families safe. How can we apply that today and how we show compassion to others?
8. How did architecture once support the practice of offering hospitality? What modern developments have made it harder to invite people over to your home and what recent developments have made it easier?

9. Talk about the two ways God elevated the practice of offering hospitality.

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:17-19.

10. *"For Christians, the expectation is that God will play a significant role in the ordinary exchange between guests and hosts. And this expectation lends itself to hospitality. It gives it a sacramental quality, a numinous quality that's mysterious and full of surprises. When the disciples took in a stranger on the Road to Emmaus, little did they know that they were not only entertaining angels, they were entertaining the Lord."* ~Bill Lane

How is hospitality sacramental?

11. In what ways has Biblical hospitality shaped how our culture practices hospitality and in what ways has it not?
12. Are you currently practicing hospitality individually and/or corporately? If not consider take one of the ways to show hospitality and try it out. See what a difference it makes in your life and the lives of others.

13. Final thought.

If you are using this discussion guide in a small group you are practicing hospitality! Consider ending the night or beginning the discussion by sharing a meal or dessert together.

Practicing the Christian Life: Hospitality

Hebrews 13:1-5

8/6/23