



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: “*BE HOSPITABLE TO & GREET ONE ANOTHER*”

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Date: September 27th, 2015

STORIES OF FAITH

As you begin this season with your Life Group, invite the group to share ‘Evidences of God’s Grace’ that they experienced or observed this past week. How have you seen God at work?

OPENING COMMENT

Typically, hospitality has more to do with the stranger and fellowship has to do with those we know well. This Sunday it was suggested that hospitality and Christian fellowship are much broader than we tend to think because of Jesus’ example and the exhortations of Scripture.

We often think of hospitality as something we do for our closest friends, family and people we would like to get to know. But Christian hospitality calls us to be welcoming and make available our food, lodging and fellowship for any and every brother and sister in Christ. Investing time with others in our homes and around a table is a great place to deepen relationships.

How would you define hospitality and fellowship? Have you viewed it as an instruction to all Christians up to this point? When you show hospitality what is your motive? Discuss how you show hospitality. Is it only to people you know or does it include strangers?

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen... (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Greet one another with the kiss of love. (1 Peter 5:14)

1) **Christians are hospitable because Jesus is hospitable to us**

We often view hospitality in a very narrow way. The NT defines it as extending friendship to strangers.

Have you viewed hospitality more narrowly than the Bible? What would our church look like if we invited those we didn't recognize and know for a meal?

We open our homes because our hearts have been opened, because God's heart has opened to us. Read [1 John 3:16-17](#) – What does this text teach us about our responsibility with the hospitality we have been granted?

2) **Hospitality is a God-ordained path for evangelism**

“Hospitality is an avenue for mission.” Do you see hospitality as mission?

Discuss the following quotes:

“I think we can easily underestimate the difference between casual interaction of this world and the casual interaction of genuine Christians” Mark Dever

“Seekers today need to not only get a body of content, but also see Christians and Christianity embodied in individuals and a community.” Tim Keller

If Dever & Keller are right and the genuine interactions of Christians and Christianity being on display are important for belief, how significant is hospitality? Why?

3) **Our affection for one another is rooted in Christ, not one another**

According to Barna research, within three minutes of walking in the door of a church and within two minutes of the beginning of a service, visitors have formed an opinion about whether the congregation is friendly.

As God desires to be in relationship with ALL persons, we are called as the church body to show hospitality. It is at the core of the Gospel. Discuss what role you play, in relationship to hospitality and evangelism;

1. inside the church (in the first three minutes of before a service starts and the first three minutes after a service end)
2. outside the church in the community

We are called to follow Jesus' example: Jesus' ministry is marked with greeting and hospitality: Jesus came into our world to welcome you; he makes a home in you, he feeds us, clothes us, greets us not as strangers. Jesus washed feet and gave everything for us. Jesus prepares a place for us and prepares a table for us ([Psalm 23:5](#)), where He will wait on us and serve us ([Luke 12:37](#)) at that great banquet. Discuss how you could best follow Jesus' example in your everyday life.

SHARE & PRAY

Take all the time your group needs to pray for the needs among you.

Share what you have discovered about Christian hospitality and greeting.

One of the greatest ways in which we can love one another is to show hospitality to others. Pray for opportunities where you can demonstrate and practice intentional hospitality within the church and outside the church.