

Practising hospitality

Warm Up

What do you understand by the phrase “dinner party”? What images does it conjure up?
What are your expectations / worries when hosting people or being hosted by people?

Background and context

In the Bible, hospitality is seen as a sacred duty that involves welcoming strangers and caring for those in need. In the Old Testament, characters such as Abraham welcomed strangers, one of whom turned out to be the Lord Himself! In the New Testament, not only the teachings of Jesus but those of Paul and Peter command hospitality, not only to believers but to all people. It is more than just kindness and involves a welcoming, loving heart towards all people, regardless of race, status or any other label we choose to place on people.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



There are several passages to look up today. Be prepared to jump about the #bible and share the reading.

1. **Read Genesis 18:1-8.** How did Abraham understand hospitality? What does the passage reveal?
2. How might we respond if three strangers showed up at our door?
3. **Read Leviticus 19:33-34.** What does the Law of Moses state about attitudes to foreigners?
4. In our current political climate, how should *The Church* be responding to migrants and refugees?
5. **Read 2 Kings 4:8-36.** How did the woman display extraordinary hospitality? How did her actions bring blessing? What lessons can we learn from her story?
6. **Read Romans 12:13 and 1 Peter 4:9.** What can we learn about our responsibility and duty as Christians?
7. **Read 1 Timothy 3:2.** What does this suggest about the importance of hospitality?
8. How is hospitality a reflection of the love of God?
9. How is hospitality important for the spread of the Gospel? Can you share examples?
10. What do you make of this statement? *Hospitality is about your heart, not your performance to impress others.*

Discipleship and Application



11. What can you do, to be obedient to New Testament teaching on hospitality?
12. How can we adapt the teaching to suit our personal situation?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.