

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Radical Hospitality – Battle for Community” Hebrews 13:1-2 May 5, 2018

Getting Started

It makes sense that God has called us to love Him. It is intuitively RIGHT that God has called us to care for our families. It is even sensible that God has called us to be the kind of people who gather many friends! In OUR world, it is incredibly challenging that God calls us to LOVE strangers. This brings us to our fourth core value: "Hospitality."

- Working Definition of Hospitality: The friendly reception of guests. (dictionary.com)
- CBC Definition: Hospitality is not just expressed by loving your friends, it is expressed radically by loving strangers.

The word Hospitality is two words in the Bible
(Philo = Love) + (Xenia = Strangers) = Philoxenia: Love to Strangers

Think about the homes you have been invited into as a guest. Who did the best job of loving you as a 'stranger' and how did they do it?

Going Deeper

Teaching Points: 4 Lenses of Hospitality

1. The Lens of Initiating

Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

How does it feel to be invited to join in socially with others, especially when you are the 'new' person at work or in the neighborhood?

What are some practical ways you can initiate hospitality with your neighbors, co-workers, and others you come in contact with regularly?

2. The Lens of **Partying**

1 Peter 4:9 - "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Whether it's how we were raised in church, or how our media portrays us, Christians have a reputation for being boring, tame, judgmental fuddy-dufs. But what if we were known for throwing the best parties? What would it take for your family or your small group to earn the reputation as the people you want to hang out with?

3. The Lens of **Training**

Romans 12:13 - "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

Practicing biblical hospitality is something we have to learn. You probably don't need to enroll in charm school or memorize Emily Post's Etiquette, but you do need learn culture. San Antonio has become a melting pot of cultures from all around the world, and to love our neighbors well means we need to learn how they feel honored and cared for.

What are some ways you could go about learning the culture of your neighbors?

Is there a particular neighbor or co-worker you will commit to getting to know better?

4. The Lens of **Leading**

1 Timothy 3:2 - "Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach..."

Hospitality is so valuable to God that it is required of church leaders.

Why do think this is so?

Remember: people flock to those who love them well. As you think about how God could prepare you for a leadership position, what are some ways you could start practicing hospitality right now?

Take Away: “Long before the church had pulpits and baptisteries, she had kitchens and dinner tables. Even a casual reading of the New Testament unveils the house as the primary tool of the church. The primary gathering place of the church was the home. The early church (with all its varied backgrounds) got along without the aid of sanctuaries, church buildings, clergy, and seminaries. They did so through the clearest of messages (The Gospel) and the simplest of tools (The Home).” - Pastor Max Lucado

Kingdom Breakthrough came from Jerusalem with 120 scared believers waiting in a room for the Holy Spirit of God to come. When it did, they went from 120 scared believers to fifty percent of the population of the planet in 330 years.

Rodney Stark - The Triumph of Christianity

Could this happen in San Antonio?

What is one thing God has impressed upon your heart from this message that you know you need to act upon right away?

How can we help you do this?

Prayer Requests