



Home Group Discussion Guide *March 13-19, 2022 – Show Hospitality to One Another*

Devotion: “The people were so hospitable!” – This is one of the most common responses I’ve heard from people when they share about a memorable trip they’ve taken. Typically, this is followed by stories of kind gestures, big smiles, and extravagant meals. Something about being received with such hospitality strikes a profound chord in us. The truth is, all of us have been guests at one point or another in our lives. If you have ever had the red carpet rolled out for you and were treated like royalty, chances are, you will never forget it. When people are shown hospitality, it makes them want to keep coming back.

Hospitality is at the very core of Christian love. One could even say hospitality is Christian love (agape) in action. This is the case because to be hospitable, one must be vulnerable, opening the gates and allowing others to enter the ‘safe space’, one must sacrifice time and resources to receiving others into their care, and one must serve their guests. Jesus often entered the homes of others and ate with them, receiving their hospitality. He also instructed His followers to not just entertain family, friends, the rich, or anyone who would be able to pay back the hospitality but instead one must be hospitable to the poor, the needy, and essentially anyone whom it would not be easy or beneficial to entertain. Ultimately, it is at the table, breaking bread with one another, where we encounter Christ.

Therefore, being hospitable must be at the center of how we love others as Christians. Not all of us are extroverts with large dining room or many guests’ rooms, but Peter tells us that each of us has received gifts that we can bless people with to make them feel warm and welcomed. Eleanor Roosevelt said it this way, “True hospitality consists of giving the best of yourself to your guests.”

Read Scripture – 1 Peter 4:8-11

- What are some memorable experiences in which you received hospitality?
- Why do you think hospitality is so important to us?
- Considering the conversation on love and hospitality, how would ‘love’ cover a multitude of sins?
- Why is it important for Christians to be hospitable without grumblings?
- What are ways the Kingdom would benefit from Christians practicing hospitality? Why?



How is it with your soul? (You'll notice that these questions are the same each week. This helps us develop a habit of looking for God and considering how we are responding to God's presence during the week.)

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

Prayer