

Hospitality

A. ALL of us have been commissioned by Jesus to influence others for Him.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Note: Showing hospitality is a great opportunity to serve Jesus and influence others for Him.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" Matthew 25:34-46 (NLT)

"Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible." 3 John 1:5 (MSG)

Hospitality = showing kindness and meeting needs in a way that makes others feel valued/special/honored.

"Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10 (NIV)

B. Three ways we can show hospitality:

1. We can use the interruptions in our day to show hospitality.

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality." Romans 12:13 (NLT)

"A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits? Jesus asked. The man replied, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Then Jesus said, 'Yes, now go and do the same.'" Luke 10:30-37 (NLT)

2. We can use our gifts, talents, and abilities to show hospitality.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)

3. We can use our possessions to show hospitality.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" 1 John 3:17 (NIV)

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32 (NLT)

"Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay." 1 Peter 4:9 (NLT)

Note: Hospitality is NOT the same as entertaining.

C. Hospitality is as much about the attitude as it is the action.

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)

Life Application: We must not let pride, envy, or selfishness keep us from showing hospitality.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Note: God may give us a pop quiz.

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” Hebrews 13:2 (NLT)

Tommy Green / 02-28-16 / tommy@centeringlives.com

Discussion Questions

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s lesson on “Hospitality” was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. Discuss the three ways we can show hospitality that were mentioned in the message:
 - Interruptions
 - Gifts, talents, and abilities
 - Possessions

Which of these feels most natural to you as a means of influencing others for Jesus? Which feels most uncomfortable? Why?

3. Who is the most hospitable person you know, and what is it about them that makes you and others feel valued by them? What influence have they had on your life?
4. How can pride, envy, or selfishness keep us from showing hospitality? Which of these is the biggest struggle for you when it comes to showing hospitality? What truth would you share with someone who struggles showing hospitality?
5. Read and discuss Hebrews 13:2 and Matthew 25:34-46. What would change about us if we saw people in need as angels or even Jesus himself?
6. How can we as a connect group show hospitality to those around us?