



CORNERSTONE

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRACTICAL GUIDE SHEET FOR

HOSPITALITY

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Making space to welcome a stranger with God's loving welcome

This guide is meant to help you reflect more deeply on hospitality and on how you might practice hospitality.

READING AND REFLECTION

Read the following "*hospitality encounters*." Consider choosing one to reflect on each day over the next week. Some of these activities can easily be done along with your older children.

- Genesis 18:1-15
- Luke 19: 1-10
- John 21: 1-19
- 1 Kings 17: 8-16
- John 13:1-17
- Acts 9: 43-10:48
- John 1: 1-16

REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- Who offers hospitality in this encounter?
- How is hospitality expressed in the events of the story?
- What are the results of hospitality you find in the story?
- What is the Spirit whispering to you as you reflect on this encounter?

LISTEN PRAYERFULLY TO THIS SONG

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIYR_dwa_2E

- In what ways does it speak to you?

JOURNAL

Reflect on a time when you were extended hospitality. How did you feel welcomed? What did the host do that was meaningful to you? How did it feel to be the guest – the receiver of hospitality (instead of the giver of hospitality)? What insights might you glean about hospitality from being a guest?

When have you offered hospitality to another person? What was it like? In what ways did you "make space" for the other person? What hidden gifts came through the experience? Where did you see Jesus or his Kingdom reflected in the hospitality encounter? Where might Jesus be nudging you to practice hospitality at this time?

What excites you about practicing hospitality? What makes you nervous or fearful? Explore these as you journal, then talk to Jesus about your answers.

CONSIDER TRYING THE “40 DAY EXPERIMENT”¹

This activity is best done in a group of several people. Consider committing to this activity as a small group, or as a family.

Goal: To experience God provide opportunities for practicing hospitality

Activity:

1. Pray the following prayer every day for 40 days: “*Lord, please send me a hospitality opportunity today.*”
2. Keep your eyes and hearts open for the opportunities that come your way.
3. Journal each opportunity and your experiences.
4. Share your experiences with the others who have committed to doing the 40 Day Experiment with you.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

Adults

- [Making Room](#) – Christine Pohl
- [God’s Welcome : Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World](#) – Amy Oden

Teens

- [Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens](#) – Dorothy Bass and Don Richter

Kids

- [All are Welcome](#) – Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman
- [Everybody’s Welcome](#) – Patricia Hegarty
- [I’m New Here](#) (a book about immigration) – Anne Sibley O’Brien
- [Prayers for a Better World](#) – Sophie Piper
- [God’s Dream](#) – Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

¹ Borrowed from Hospitality: Expecting Surprises by Michele Hershberger, p258.