October 4, 2026

Hospitality

MAKING SPACE FOR THE STRANGER

SERMON: Hospitality as Posture and Practice
SPEAKER: Beth Nolson
CORE SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:23–48

WATCH SERMON | SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

This final message in the Hospitality series explores how Christian welcome begins with our inner posture and moves outward into our practice. Beth Nolson walks us through Acts 10, where God patiently transforms Peter's ingrained boundaries and prejudices, enabling him to extend hospitality to Cornelius—a Gentile and Roman centurion. The sermon emphasizes that true hospitality requires a willingness to be interrupted, to notice and embrace those we might otherwise overlook or avoid. It calls us to community-based hospitality that trusts God's provision, acknowledges our limits, and reflects the radical welcome we have first received from Jesus.

SHARE

Describe a time when you experienced or offered unexpected hospitality. What feelings or challenges came with that moment?

READ

Let's read **Acts 10:23–48** aloud together as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. Looking closely at Acts 10:28 and 34–35, what do you notice about how Peter interprets his vision and the meaning of God's welcome? How does this passage challenge traditional boundaries in faith and community? What theology about God and people do you see emerging here?

3. In what ways did Peter's initial posture ("leaning away") reflect his upbringing, experiences, or fears? How did God work to transform Peter's heart and perspective throughout this story?

4. Beth Nolson talked about “holy interruptions”—moments when our plans are disrupted for the sake of someone in need. What might it look like in your own life to be open to these interruptions? How do you discern when to “see, stop, and step in”?

5. Verse 45 shows the Jewish believers’ amazement at the Holy Spirit poured out on Gentiles. How does this scene deepen your understanding of who belongs in God’s family? What implications does this have for our own practice of hospitality?

6. Peter’s journey involved proximity—sharing space, meals, and time with those he once saw as outsiders. What practical steps can we take to foster proximity and deeper relationships, especially with those different from us?

7. When thinking about limitations (time, resources, energy), what does it look like to trust God’s provision as you practice hospitality, as Beth shared from her own experience?

NEXT STEPS

Consider one tangible way you can practice “leaning in” this week—maybe by noticing a neighbour, welcoming someone new, or being open to an interruption. Share your plans with the group for encouragement and accountability.

PRAY

Spend time praying together. Invite the Holy Spirit to shape your group’s posture, to help you see and welcome others as God does. Pray for courage, wisdom, and sensitivity to God’s “holy interruptions.” Lift up any specific needs or opportunities for hospitality in your lives or community.

CONNECT

Stay connected with what’s happening in our church family. Check out **The Hub** for upcoming opportunities, workshops, or ways our group can serve together and embody hospitality in the wider community.

CLOSING

Thank everyone for sharing openly and encourage each other to keep practicing hospitality—trusting that God is at work, shaping us to welcome as He has welcomed us.