

Community Group Discussion Guide - Week 8 - Be Hospitable

1 Peter 4:9

Ice Breaker

Share a time you were badly welcomed at a restaurant or hotel or some other service like establishment that should be welcoming.

Reflection / The Body

Read: 1 Peter 4:7-11, Romans 15:1-7

There are three aspects of hospitality that Matt shared on Sunday: open heart, open hands, and open home. Open hearts are lives that are lived in a way that is open to others and able to let them in. Open hands are open to give and to reach out - to use the time, talent, and resources we had talked about during the service one another week. An open home is when we can invite people into our actual houses to help fulfill needs - both physical and spiritual. Hospitality is a gift that let's others into the places of our lives that are usually held to ourselves. Someone who is hospitable creates a place where healing happens, relationships form, and real life is shared. We ourselves need this openness and hospitality from one another more than we probably even realize. This is all challenging - not just in that it is a challenge to do this - but it challenges the way the world around us works and how people treat one another.

1. How did this sermon help you see hospitality differently?
2. Who is someone you know who is hospitable?
 - a. What makes them hospitable?
3. What is challenging about this one another?
4. How does this view of hospitality challenge the way things work for us here in Monmouth County, NJ?
5. What are some things that prevent you from being hospitable towards others?
6. In the Romans passage, what does it mean that welcoming brings glory to God?
7. What gets in the way of opening your home to others?
8. How does hospitality relate to some of the other "one anothers" we have discussed?

The World

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

What about your neighbors, coworkers, or other people you might run into? How are we supposed to be hospitable towards them? We all have contact with others who are in need of good relationships and the good news. We have a perception of our homes that they belong to us, that our homes are our private sanctuaries where we can escape the world around us. It can

seem as if our home is a reward for all the hard work we do. But this isn't the way we are called to use the things that God has given us. We are called to use the gifts (our homes, hands, hearts) to share the good news with the world around us. The people in our lives need to hear the gospel. The world around us needs to be transformed by the gospel. Together, we are how people will hear the gospel and how the world around us will be transformed by it.

1. Who should we welcome?
2. Is there a difference between how we are hospitable to our fellow Christians and towards others?
3. How can we change our perception of our homes?
4. Do you set aside time to be available for others? Do you have time among your busyness to stop and talk with someone who needs your hospitality?
5. How is God calling you to open your home to share the gospel?

Challenge

In this series, we are trying to learn how to love one another better. Every week, we'll be challenged to live out the current "one another".

This week, think of the person or people who you need to be hospitable towards. Set aside a night and invite that person or those people over for dinner and just talk and learn about each others' lives.