

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

June 6

Pastor Aaron's Message was on Hospitality. The Oxford dictionary defines hospitality as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. What if we all attempted to take a step or two forward in hospitality this summer? What do you think would happen, in our homes, in our neighborhood, in our cities??? Jesus set the table for us when it comes to hospitality. He welcomed us in, and we must recognize the model He was demonstrating: We were strangers and He showed us love. We must do the same for others...Company is coming and we are called to acts of hospitality!!!

Community Prayer:

Eternal God, this is the Day that you have made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. As we discuss Hospitality today allow us to be transparent about our fears and discomfort in engaging this principle. Let us be willing to get out of our comfort zone, for the benefit of reaching someone you have placed on our hearts to draw closer to you. Help us to see this as an opportunity and not a burden, as we seek to invest our time in reaching others with the Good News you have given us to give to them through our actions; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. What is the biggest reason you are uncomfortable or hesitant with having people over for a meal and conversation?
2. If hospitality is one of your gifts, talk about the joy you experience in welcoming people in?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

Matthew 9:9

3. There are so many issues in the world today and we may never see eye-to-eye, but when we **act as Jesus modeled** (WWJD), we should be willing to step out and invite them out for lunch or dinner. Have you ever taken this bold step? How did this turn out? Did you leave further divided or united? Why/Why not?
4. Why do you think Levi (Matthew) immediately followed Jesus?

Matthew 9:10

5. Have you ever hung out with someone that was un-liked by many of your friends? How did you handle this situation?



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6. Why is it important to try and reach the unreachable with the message of the Gospel through hospitality?
7. Levi invited some of his Tax Collector friends to the Banquet, what does this say about the impact that Jesus' invitation had on him?
8. Who do you think "the others" were who attended the Banquet?
9. How will you handle the Haters that may ridicule you for inviting certain people to your home for a meal?

"The price of spiritual indifference is too high a price to pay" – Karl Romeus

Matthew 9:11-12

10. How do you think the religious people experienced rebuke?
 - a. Talk about a time you felt rebuked. How did you respond?
11. How do you think the tax collectors and sinners experienced Jesus?
12. What are some benefits derived from sharing a meal with a group of people? (Think of walls being torn down)

1 Peter 4:7-9

13. "The end of all things is near"; what does this say about the urgency of telling our stories of God's transformation in your life?
14. How does being alert and sober minded help you when you pray?
15. How do you "Love others deeply"?
 - a. Can you still "love others deeply when they seem hard to love?
16. Why do you think that Love covers a multitude of sins?

THE TAKEAWAY

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- Your love for God should motivate you to love Others.
- Without loving God with all of your heart, soul, and mind you would be unable to love your neighbor as yourself.
- Our Vertical relationship with God drives our Horizontal relationships with others.
- Remember: "Love Covers a Multitude of sins"!



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Additional Resources:

<https://www.artofneighboring.com/>

[B.L.E.S.S.](#)

Hospitality discussion starters:

4 H's of Listening

1. History= tell me your story, where did you grow up?
2. Heart= what's your favorite? (food, vacation, trip, team)
3. Habits= what are you into? What do you like to do with free time?
4. Hurts= how are you doing with (name the situation)?

PRAYER REQUESTS

