

# HOSPITALITY

## BUILDING GOSPEL-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS



“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13:1-2

### HOSPITALITY COMMANDS

- In the New Testament times, the gospel was expanded by means of Christian hospitality toward traveling missionaries (Matthew 10:5-15; Luke 10:2-11)
- Hospitality should be the joyful practice of all Christians (Romans 12:13; I Peter 4:9)
- Church leaders should be known for practicing hospitality regularly (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Hospitality is to be demonstrated toward Christians and non-Christians alike (Matthew 25:40; Hebrews 13:2)

### DETERMINE WHO TO PURSUE

- Grove members
- New and returning visitors to The Grove
- Military families
- Informal neighborhood party/BBQ
- Co-workers and others in the community
- Friends that do not live near family

### IDEAS FOR YOUR INVITATION

- Invite a visiting church guest to dinner after the church service
- Send a short text or note to a co-worker inviting them to join you for lunch
- Call a group of church members and schedule a game night
- Arrange a play-date for the neighborhood children and their families
- Take your dog for a walk with your neighbor and their pet
- Organize a holiday party with neighbors
- Be mindful of single members of the church body and include them in family celebrations, holidays, or special events

#### UNDERSTAND THE GOAL

- Evangelism of non-Christians
- Encouragement/growth of new Christians
- Fellowship within the family of Christians
- Overall, a practice of loving others more than yourself

## ANTICIPATE NEEDS

- When inviting guests over, consider having some games ready to continue the evening beyond the food
- When hosting a family with children in your home, prepare activities to help entertain the children so adults can hold conversations with less distraction
- When guests arrive for dinner, serve appetizers from the kitchen to encourage conversation while placing the finishing touches on a meal
- Set out place cards at each spot on the table with a different ice breaker question for each guest

## HOSTING EFFECTIVELY

- Think ahead of time about a list of questions to get to know the individual better
- Be intentional about leading in prayer before a meal, letting them know it is your practice
- Start with a dessert invitation. It is less time consuming for the guest and easier to accept

## DEMONSTRATE THOUGHTFULNESS

- Be listening for opportunities to serve the individual beyond the first meeting
  - Offer your neighbor to collect their mail, take care of their lawn, or watch any pets while they are out of town (for free)
  - Arrange a game night for your friends' children so that the couple can go out for a date
  - Offer to bring over a meal when a spouse or partner will be out of town or if a need arises (medical, baby, etc.)
- Look for repeat opportunities to spend time together - building the relationship as an avenue for the gospel to non-Christians or encouragement to fellow Christians
  - Go to the beach or go hiking at a state park
  - Invite others to a sporting event with your roommate, family, or other friends
  - Invite others to join you at a free local community event in your area
  - Invite others on a camping trip - an opportunity for extended conversation apart from modern distractions



Adapted from Grace Church Miami  
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