



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: Pulpit Curriculum (03.02.2025)

Hospitality: Love of Strangers in the Home

Main passage: 1 Pet 4:8, 9

1) Drink the Gospel Grace of Hospitality (1 Pet 4:8, 9)

- Hospitality is a gospel grace and is often paired with love. We should love each other, as love covers a multitude of sins – showing hospitality without grumbling. Our activity is an investment into gospel grace as we show love and care to those we don't know. Hospitality is the response of the soul that drinks deeply of gospel grace. Lydia showed this level of hospitality after she and her household were converted (Acts 16:14-15). Scottish missionary John Paton dedicated his life to Christ by loving strangers; and our King is worthy.

- Greek word φιλόξενος - philo xenos - "love strangers" is translated as "hospitality" – opening our hearts and homes to make strangers friends, and friends, disciples.

A. How does the original Greek meaning of hospitality provide clarity in understanding biblical hospitality? _____

B. Do you have a grumbling heart when it comes to hospitality? To ensure your heart is more open to loving strangers, on which aspects of God's unsearchable grace toward you should you meditate? _____

2) Deploy Your Forward Operating Base

- In the days of the early church, hospitality in the home and in the church was the same because all churches met in homes. 1 Tim 5:9-10 gives us an example of widows, who didn't have much in the ancient near east, that showed exceeding hospitality. While all Christians should show hospitality, elders should be marked by hospitality (1 Tim 3:2). The early church shows us that hospitality in our home is an extension of our ministry (Acts 2:42-47).

C. How are you effectively using your home for hospitality and ministry? List some steps you can take to deploy your forward operating base. _____

3) Deepen Relationships through God's Home



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- Everything that we have as a Christ follower is the Lord's, including our homes. Our homes are where we care for and nurture others, an environment to deepen relationships where strangers will become friends who will become disciple-makers. It starts with our willingness to extend Christ's love to another person.

D. Consider someone that you can be mindful of (university or international students; military families; the immature in the faith; unsaved; single adults; or families without local support). Write down a specific person to whom you should hospitality, and one or two ways you will do so.

E. What things do you believe that restrict your affection for people who are not your friends? How does that impede hospitality in your home? _____

4) Dispatch the Next Generation of Leaders (3 John 5-8)

- We are dispatching the next generation of leaders by taking up this great opportunity for hospitality. As we grow toward the goal of becoming more of a training church, the more we will need to depend on people to show costly hospitality.

F. How do your desires need to change to love others enough to sacrifice for them through hospitality? _____

5) Develop Hospitality habits

- Hospitality: Where to Start
 - Build Conviction: Scripture is our authority
 - Start with someone in your Lifegroup
 - Involve others to share the work and joy
 - Set aside specific time on your calendar
 - Immediate Sunday hospitality

G. Consider the healthy habits above. List at least three to take up this week. Ask someone in your Lifegroup to pray for you and be your accountability in those things. _____
