



SESSION 10: EXTENDING HOSPITALITY 2



-  You may decide to facilitate a whole-group discussion, divide into smaller groups, or pair people up to answer the session discussion questions.
-  You may have time to invite each pair or group to summarize their discussion for the whole group at the conclusion of discussion times. You may want to collect brainstormed activities on a whiteboard or easel pad.

DIGGING INTO GOD'S WORD

Reflect on the following based in Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, and Luke 14:13-14

1. In these verses, what **attributes** (character traits/actions) of God do I see? What attributes of God's people do I see?

2. How open were hearts and doors in the home where I grew up?

3. In what ways do I currently help meet the needs of the saints?

4. When in my life has God connected me with "outsiders" (poor, needy, "blind", etc.)? What was challenging and what was rewarding about these experiences?



EVALUATING - Prioritizing and Nurturing the Habit of Extending Hospitality

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 is a bystander and 10 is an active partner), describe my household's engagement with God's Gospel mission:

2. What names or faces come to mind when my household prays about "Spirit-sense hospitality" ... sensing the nudging of the Holy Spirit to start impacting someone for God's eternal kingdom?

3. Do I have any extended household members who started out as guests? How did they become a more central part of my household over time?

4. In my household (and in my heart) is dependency viewed as more of a liability or more of a virtue? Why is that so?

5. Do I find it easier to ask others for help, or to offer help to others? Why is a willingness to take both actions important?



Households of Faith – Activities Guide

Extending Hospitality – Opening Hearts & Doors

“Crack” the door:

- On a household calendar, keep track of every person who comes into your house each month. Just being more mindful of the people God is bringing within the orbit of your household can help.
- Drop in at a friend’s or relative’s house **unannounced**. If it helps to have an excuse, take some cookies or flowers as a surprise gift.
- Host a **driveway or backyard** s’more roast or BBQ for some friends.
- Offer to host the next extended family gathering at your home.
- The next time you need an ingredient for a recipe, or a tool that you do not own, try calling a neighbor to see if they can help, or walk next door to borrow... rather than simply heading to the store to buy.
- Have everyone in your household make a “**relationship map**” of their lives: drawing a circle in the center of the paper for themselves and then drawing a line out from them to the various friends, acquaintances, and neighbors they have around them. Even this small task can get them thinking about the wider world around them.
- Pray regularly for some of the people on your relationship maps. You could even mark on the map when you’ve prayed for someone and continue this until you’ve prayed for everyone on your maps.
- Read the booklet, “Helping Your Child Welcome Others”, which helps parents nurture an open heart in their children and practice activities within this habit - Available at www.lhm.org/households.
- Read with your children, “Welcome”, a rhyming booklet just for children about the importance of welcoming others as God has welcomed us – Available at www.lhm.org/households.

Open the door a little wider:

- If you are not yet part of an ELC Connection Group, visit one that is meeting in your area.
- Start throwing a specific kind of party and make a tradition of it (Super Bowl, Summer Solstice, etc.)
- Buy a guest book that everyone who comes into your home can sign. Pray about a goal for how many guests you want to sign it in the next 12 months.
- Take a regular dinner party a step further by inviting **one or two new people** every time you have friend or family over. You could look at your relationship map and choose someone that has never been to your home.
- Plan a play date with other households at a neighborhood **park** area.
- When another household invites your household to their home or to an event... say “Yes”.
- Organize a game night or movie night and invite a wide variety of friends and family – try to fill every seat in your home.
- Next time you have a **household need**, think creatively about someone you know in neighborhood or church who you could invite over to help fill that need, rather than simply paying a professional.
- Next time you hear of someone with a household need you can help fill, go to their place and offer to roll up your sleeves and help them with it.
- As a household, interview another couple or family that you see extending hospitality regularly – Ask questions as you listen to their experiences. Ask for their prayers as you open your doors wider.
- Choose a young family or an elderly person in your neighborhood or church and look for ways to bless them... either at your home or at theirs.
- Offer to help with **International Friendship Center** activities, or with **Third Thursday** distributions.

“Blow off” the doors:

- Buy a bigger table and more chairs.
- **Rearrange** your home to make it easier for you to have people over, and more comfortable for people to be in your home.
- Invite parents or in-laws to live with you.
- Become a state-approved foster family.
- Host an exchange student or a missionary.
- Encourage your Connection Group to **“adopt”** a shut-in or widow/widower, and find a way each month to bless and serve them.
- Informally “adopt” a young family from your neighborhood or church and treat them as family with holiday and birthday celebrations, and with care to meet needs.
- Commit to participating in the monthly ELC **Senior Center service** at a facility near your home.
- Informally “adopt” an elderly person from your neighborhood or church and treat them as family with celebrations and caring for needs, even helping with transportation and meals.
- Buy a bigger home... specifically for the purpose of extending hospitality to more people... and then ask God to send the people He wants to interact with you!

E”Special”ly for Singles:

- Intentionally create conversation and connections with those sitting around you at church. Ask questions and make notes about interests and events so that you can check back. Make extra efforts to show interest in youth and young adults.
- Take walks in your neighborhood and try to learn the names and jobs of those living on your street. Try to strike up conversations and pray for these neighbors.
- Pray to God for a household to connect with you, and ask Him to create opportunities to spend time together.
- Approach a household that you feel God is drawing you towards, and ask for them to prayerfully consider being blessed by you and you being blessed by them.
- Form or join a book club.
- Form or join a monthly group that meets for cards or games.
- Join the **International Friendship Center’s** monthly cooking classes and form relationships with others participating.
- Participate in ELC’s **Senior Center services** – welcome those that cannot come to YOUR home by visiting them in THEIR home.
- If you have a particular skill or interest, make this known at your church, and offer to help others needing your gifts.
- Volunteer to help with ELC’s **Third Thursday** ministry and help meet the needs of community members in their households.
- Read [Go and Do: Becoming a Missional Christian](#) by Don Everts and share what you learn with your extended household.