faith at HOME

Sunday Morning Study: Rooms 1 Through 3

TODAY

Intro/Review/Preview - 10 Minutes

Hospitality & Service - 15 Minutes

Ideas & Suggestions - 15 Minutes

REVIEW

REVIEW

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

REVIEW

An Amazingly Awkward Prayer
Share
Watch on YouTube

this week:

The Study...

~~March 3 – Intro – Abiding / Threats to Abiding~~

~~March 10 – Defining who's in my household?~~

~~March 17 – Building Strong Foundations~~

~~March 24 – Prayer in the Household~~

~~March 31 – Easter – No Class~~

~~April 8 – Faith-filled Conversations~~

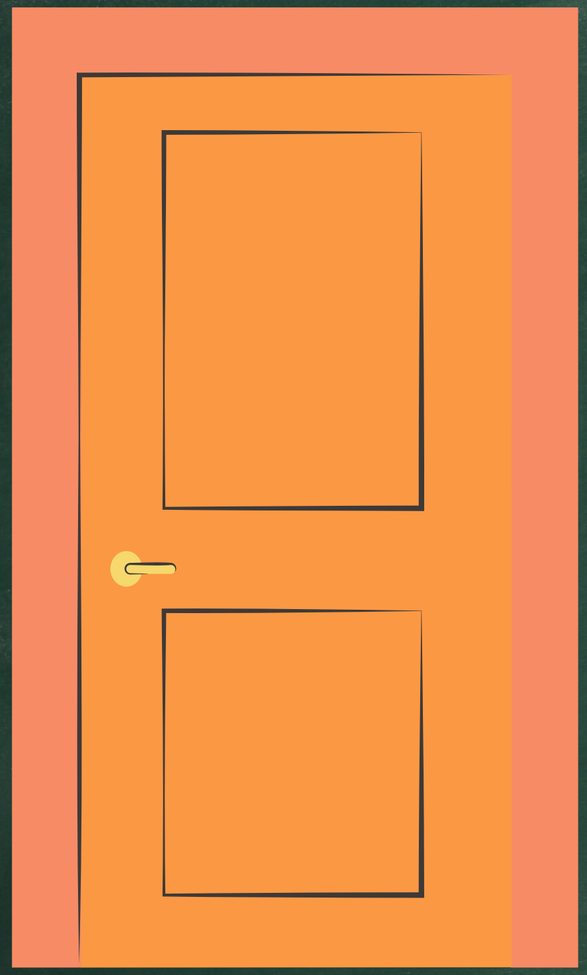
TODAY: April 15 - Open Doors & Open Hands

April 22 - The Role of Prayer

A CONTINUATION OF A KEY QUESTION:

How do we intentionally relate to God as a household together?

OPEN DOORS & OPEN HANDS



Hospitality & Service

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

"Love your neighbor as yourself." - Mark 12:31

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY/SERVICE

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." - Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

A Living Sacrifice

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.[b] 2 Do not be conformed to this world,[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.[d]

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

"A Living Sacrifice
Gifts of Grace

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

4 For as in one body we have many members,[e] and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,[f] with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

Marks of the True Christian

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what
is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be
slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,[g] serve the Lord.

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

Marks of the True Christian

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant
in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and
seek to show hospitality.

GOD'S WORD ON HOSPITALITY / SERVICE

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." - Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

HOSPITALITY

“Spiritually vibrant homes practice hospitality. This hospitality is multifaceted: it not only involves blessing others by welcoming them into the extended household but also involves being blessed by these newcomers to the household.“

WHY HOSPITALITY?

“Hospitality is connected to God‘s Mission.“

Everts, Don. The Spiritually Vibrant Home: The Power of Messy Prayers, Loud Tables, and Open Doors (Lutheran Hour Ministries Resources) (p. 155). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition. “

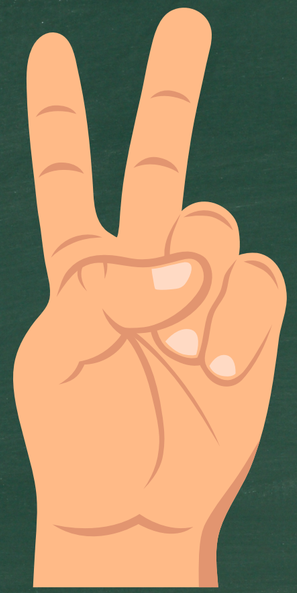
1. When have you experienced or seen an example of not just recreational hospitality but “strategic hospitality” as Piper describes it?

2. On a scale of one to ten (where one is a calm bystander and ten is an active partner), describe your household’s engagement with God’s mission.

3. As you ask the specific questions Piper poses, are there any faces or names in your life that come to mind?

WHY HOSPITALITY?

“Hospitality strengthens faith formation.“



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1. On a scale of one to ten (where one is very isolated and ten is very hospitable), how would you describe your household? In what ways are “fear of the stranger” or “love of the stranger” nurtured within your household?

2. How many times a year do you invite someone new into your home or just drop in at someone else’s house?

3. Are there features of your current season in life that make extending hospitality understandably more difficult right now?

WHY HOSPITALITY?

"Hospitality enlarges the extended household in helpful ways."

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TOP FIVE FREQUENT VISITORS FOR EACH TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD

	Nuclear family household	Single-parent household	Multi-generational household	Roommate household	Couple household	Other household
1	A close friend 26%	A close friend 25%	A close friend 25%	A close friend 26%	Adult child 29%	A close friend 20%
2	Sibling 15%	Sibling 19%	Sibling 17%	Sibling 15%	Grandchild 23%	Sibling 13%
3	Mother 14%	Mother 14%	Neighbor 17%	Neighbor 11%	A close friend 15%	Mother 12%
4	Grandparent 13%	Neighbor 12%	Other relative 11%	Boyfriend or girlfriend 9%	Son- / daughter-in-law 14%	Other relative 12%
5	Neighbor 10%	Child's close friend 11%	Grandchild 10%	Mother 8%	Neighbor 10%	Neighbor 10%

n=2,347 US practicing Christian adults and teens, April 5–11, 2018.

FIGURE 6.2

1. Who are the most frequent visitors in your home?

2. How have you and your household been blessed by guests or members of your extended household?

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

WHY HOSPITALITY?

“Spiritually vibrant homes rely on others.“

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1. How do you depend on family members or others who do not live in your home to help with finances, childcare, or other things to keep your household running?

2. Who are those in your household likely to go to for advice, sympathy, encouragement, or logistical help?

3. In your household (and in your heart) is dependency viewed as more of a liability or a virtue? Why do you think that is?

REALITY

“Some people struggle with hospitality“

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REALITY

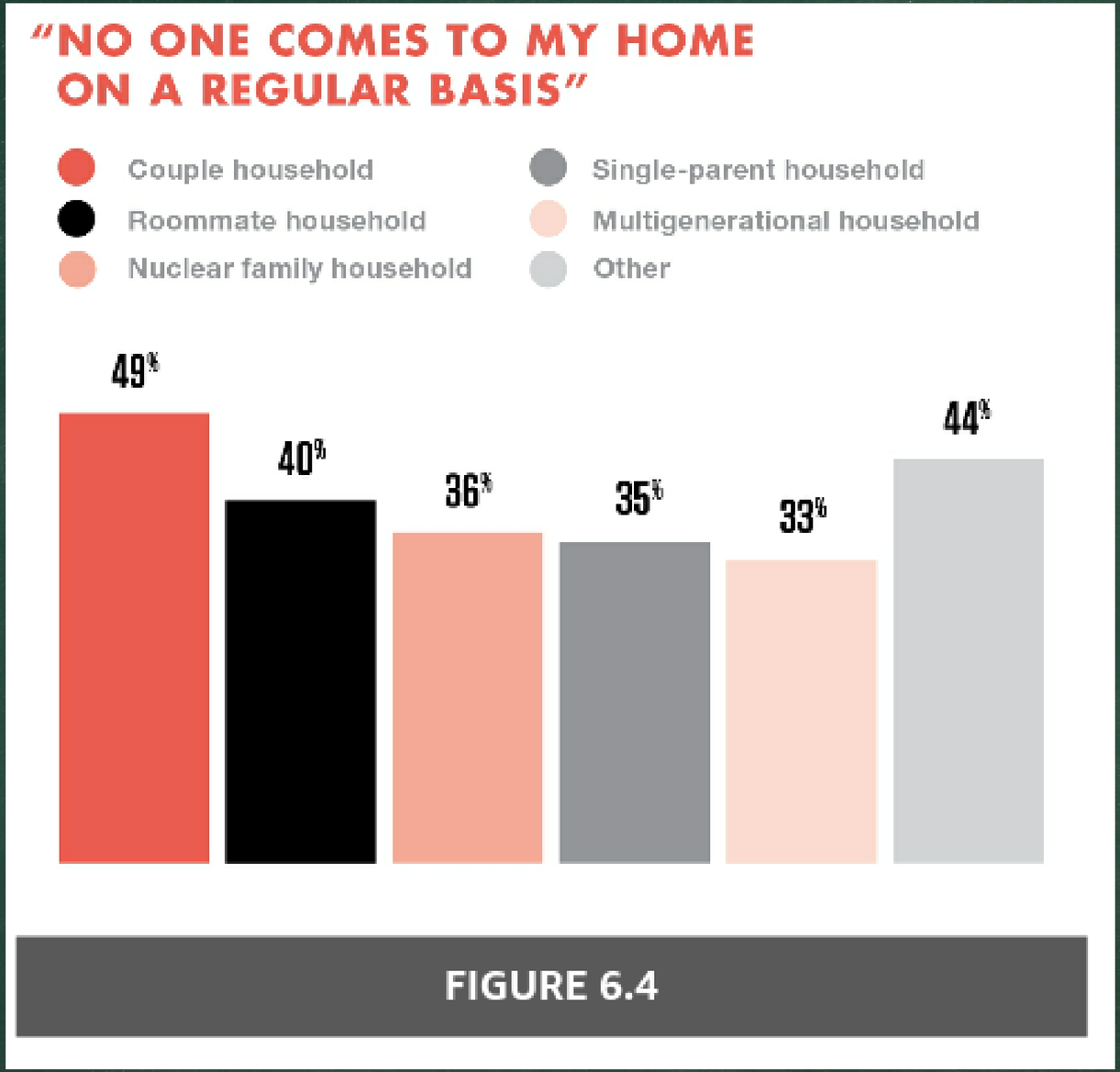


FIGURE 6.4

REASONS FOR AVOIDING HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE

PERSONALITY/ UPBRINGING

REASONS FOR AVOIDING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

TIME:

Overscheduled

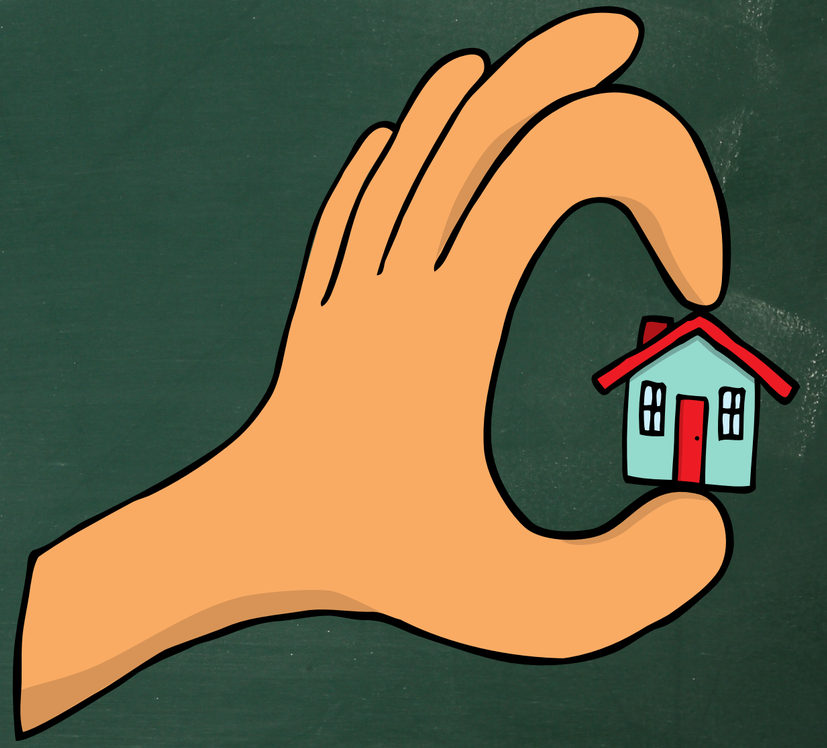
Little Margin

REASONS FOR AVOIDING HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE

SPACE

Too Small?

Messy?



REASONS FOR AVOIDING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

ANY OTHERS?

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statement “No one comes to my home on a regular basis”?

2. If you are a part of someone else’s extended household, how regularly do you go into their home?

3. What barriers to hospitality do you or others in your household currently have?

OPEN DOORS: WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

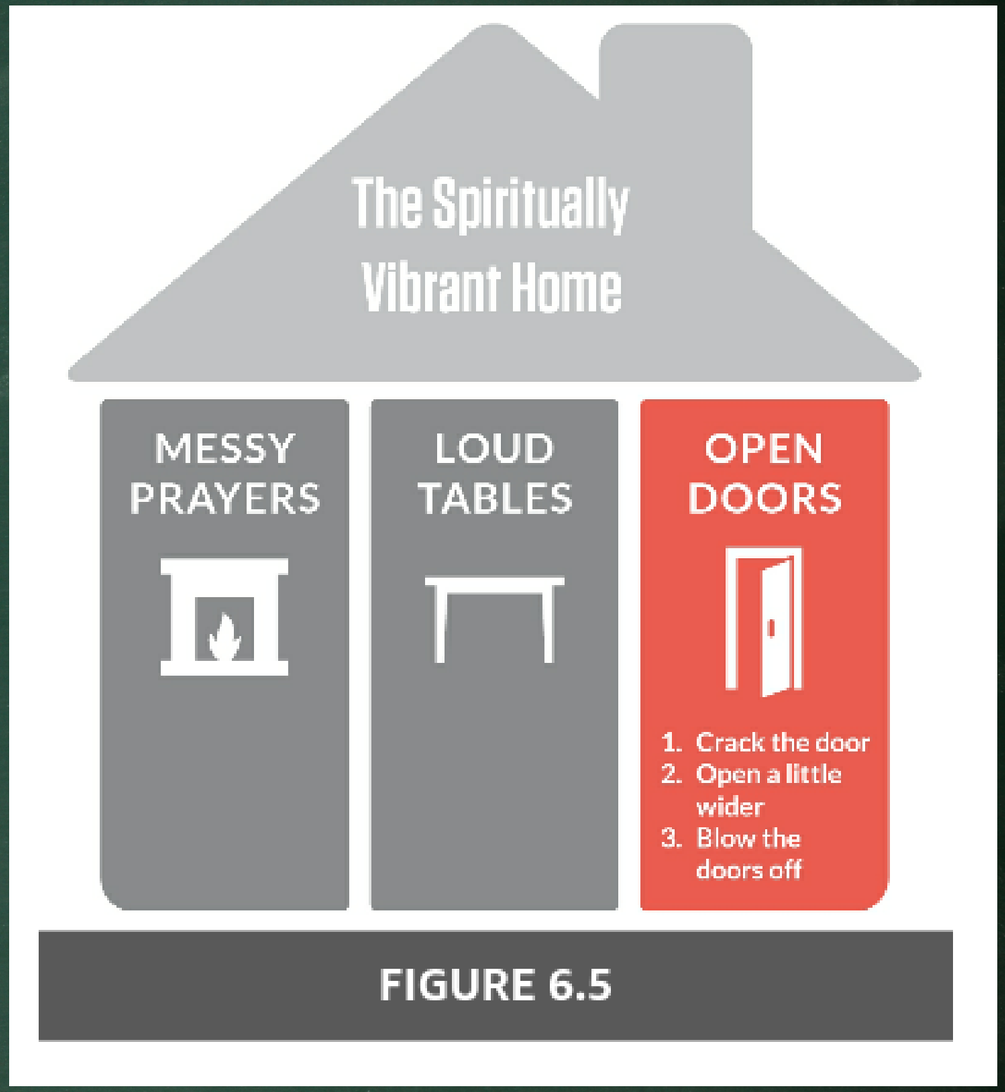


FIGURE 6.5

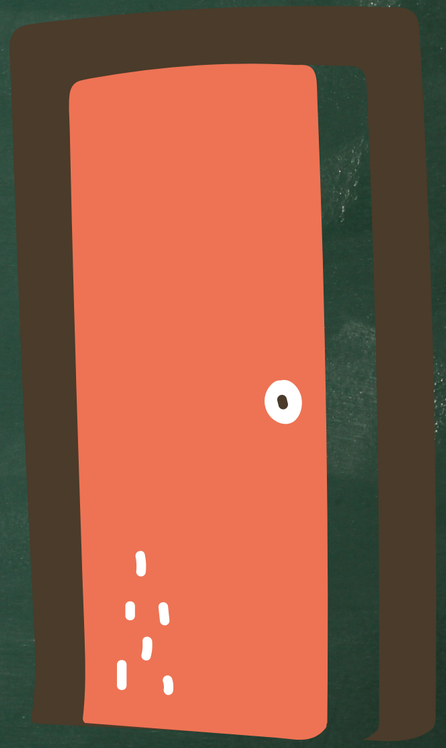
STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

CRACK THE DOOR

Host a dinner party for friends.

Offer to host the next extended family gathering at your house.

Drop in at a friend or relative's home unannounced. (?!)



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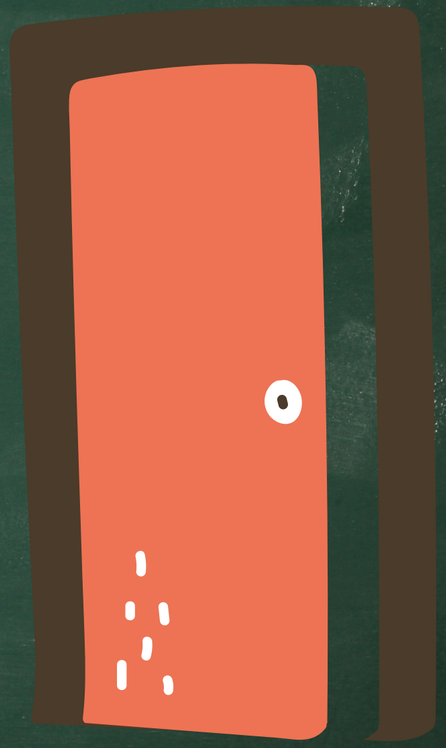
STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

CRACK THE DOOR

If you need an excuse, bake some fresh cookies and bring them over as an unexpected treat.

On a household calendar keep track of every person who comes into your house each month.



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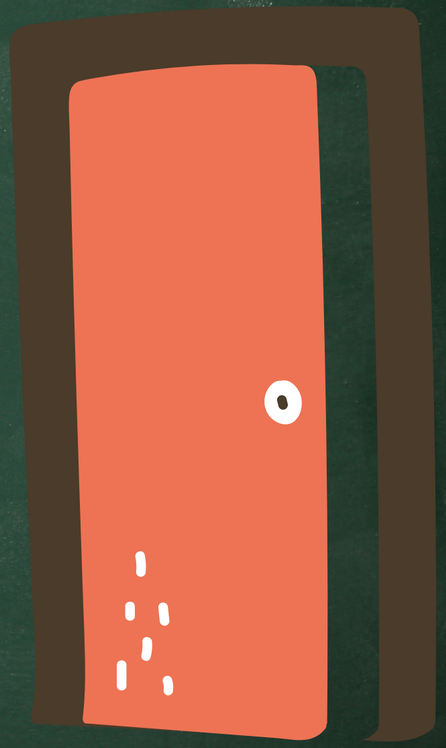
STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

CRACK THE DOOR

Just being more mindful of the people God is bringing within the orbit of your household can help.

The next time you need an ingredient for a recipe, try walking next door to borrow rather than simply heading to the store to purchase.



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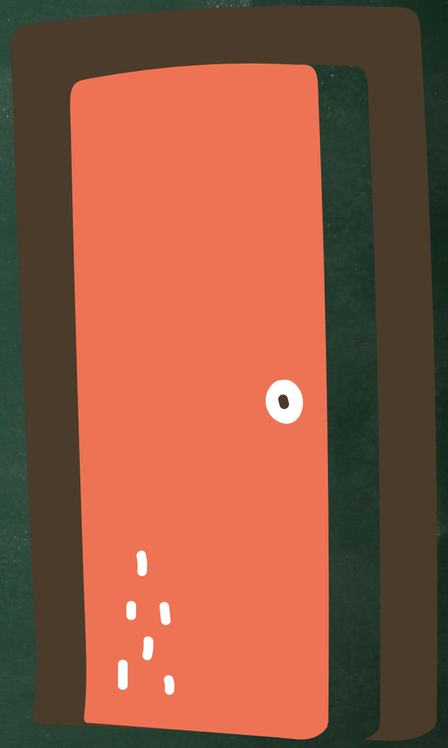
STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

CRACK THE DOOR

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.



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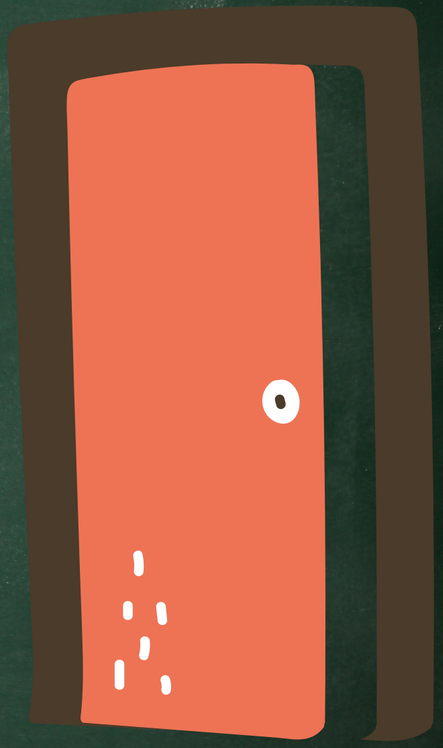
STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

CRACK THE DOOR

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.



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STRATEGIES FOR OPEN DOORS

OPEN A LITTLE WIDER

Start throwing a specific kind of party and make a tradition of it (a New Year's Eve party, Super Bowl party, themed birthday parties—even for the adults in your household).

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STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

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 twelve months.

Organize a game night or movie night and invite widely —try to get every seat in your home filled.

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STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

Take regular dinner parties a step further by always inviting one or two new people every time you have friends over. You could look on your relationship map and choose someone you've never had over before.

Pick a day of the week when you will always stop by someone else's house to simply check in to see how they are doing. Again, bringing fresh cookies never hurts.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

The next time you have a household need, think creatively about a person you already know who you could invite over to help you meet the need rather than simply paying a professional to take care of it. Even if you could afford to simply pay a professional, why not invite someone from the neighborhood or church or work who has a specialty in a certain area?

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STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

Next time you hear of someone with a household need, go to their place and offer to roll up your sleeves and help them with it.

Choose a young family that might be overwhelmed with the frenzy of raising kids and look for ways to bless them as a guest in their household.

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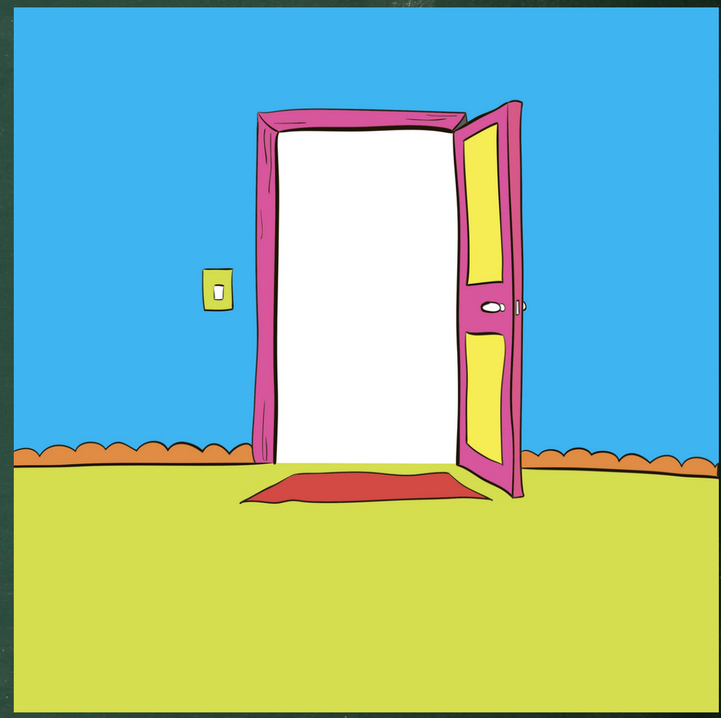
STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

BLOW THE DOORS OFF

Buy a bigger table and more chairs.



Rearrange your home to be more hospitable. You don't have to have a huge home to do this. College students often loft dorm beds and move desks into closets so that they can regularly host more people.

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STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

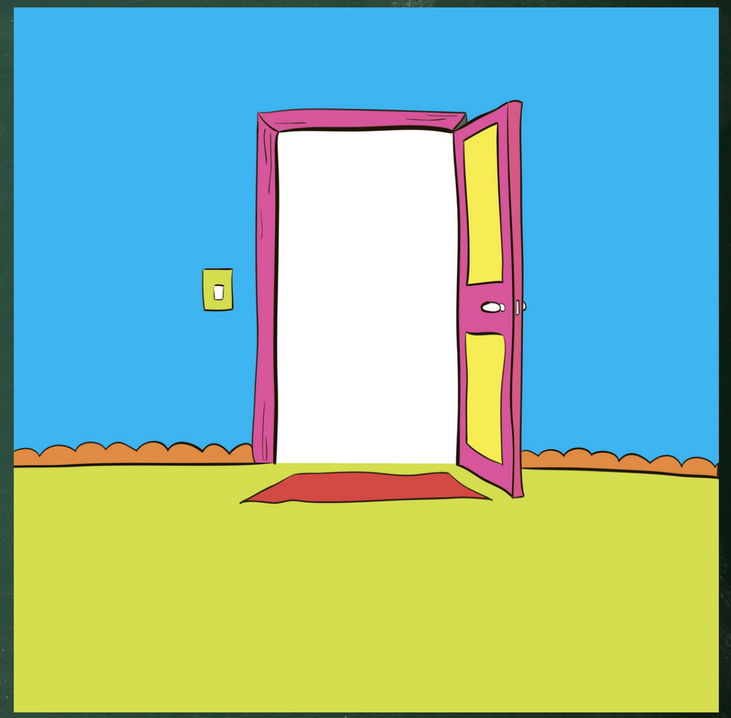
BLOW THE DOORS OFF

Invite your mom and stepdad to move in with you!

Become a state-approved foster family.

Host an exchange student.

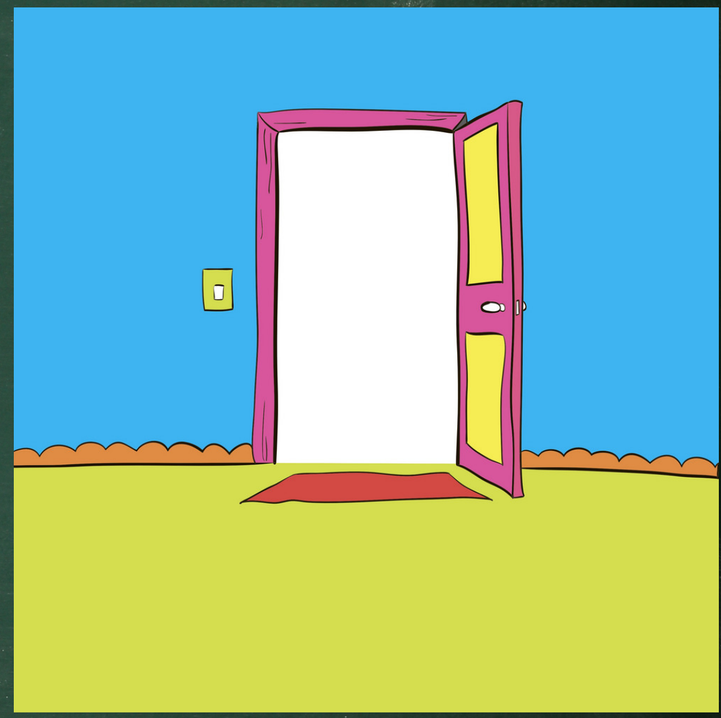
Informally adopt a young family from your church or neighborhood.



STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

BLOW THE DOORS OFF

Informally adopt an elderly person from your church or neighborhood. (When Author's wife) found out that an elderly neighbor in the next condo over in Boulder was struggling to feed herself, she started making our meals a little larger, bought some Tupperware, and brought food over every night for two years.



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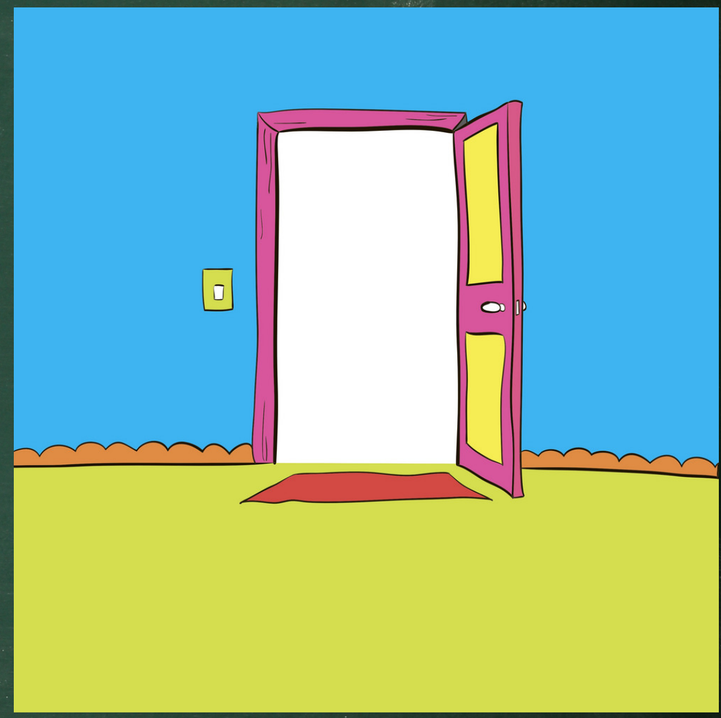

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....Your household is made for this!”

“When we practice hospitality, we experience the thrill of feeling God’s power conquer our fears and our stinginess and all the psychological gravity of our self-centeredness...

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....Your household is made for this!”

“...And there are few joys, if any, greater than experiencing the liberating power of God’s hospitality making us a new and radically different kind of people, who love to reflect the glory of his grace as we extend it to others in all kinds of hospitality.”