

**Sermon Title:** Finding a Home

**Sermon Series:** Open House – Hospitality in the Bible

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-31, 3:8-21

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



**Where can you find \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Hospitality — “The generous and gracious treatment of guests (neighbors and strangers). – Lexham Bible Dictionary**

**Leviticus 19:33-34 ESV**

33 “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

*“And, as hospitality is an attribute of God, one finds its images in the biblical proclamation of the relationship between God and the covenant people. Hospitality in the ancient world focused on the alien or stranger in need. The plight of aliens was desperate. They lacked membership in the community, be it tribe, city-state, or nation.*

*As an alienated person, the traveler often needed immediate food and lodging. Widows, orphans, the poor, or sojourners from other lands lacked the familial or community status that provided a landed inheritance, the means of making a living, and protection. In the ancient world the practice of hospitality meant graciously receiving an alienated person into one’s land, home, or community and providing directly for that person’s needs”*

— (Rodney K. Duke, “Hospitality,” Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, ed. Walter A. Elwell [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996])

**Genesis 1:1-2 ESV**

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

### Day 1 – Light – Genesis 1:3-5 ESV

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*“And God saw the light. Here God is introduced by Moses as surveying his work, that he might take pleasure in it. But [Moses writes this] for our sake, to teach us that God has made nothing without a certain reason and design. And we ought not so to understand the words of Moses as if God did not know that his work was good, till it was finished. But the meaning of the passage is, that the work, such as we now see it, was approved by God.*

— (John Calvin, Commentary on Genesis, Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/calvin\\_john/Gen/Gen01.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/calvin_john/Gen/Gen01.cfm)).

Day 1 – Light – Genesis 1:3-5

Day 2 – Sky and Atmosphere – Genesis 1:6-8

Day 3 – Oceans, Earth, and Vegetation – Genesis 1:9-13

Day 4 – Sun, Moon and Stars which govern time – Genesis 1:14-19

Day 5 – Sea and Air Animals – Genesis 1:20-23

Day 6 – Land Animals and 2 Humans – Genesis 1:24-31

*“In the very order of the creation the paternal [care] of God for man is [clearly visible], because he furnished the world with all things needful, and even with an immense [abundance] of wealth, before he formed man. Thus man was rich before he was born. But if God had such care for us before we existed, he will by no means leave us destitute of food and of other necessities of life, now that we are placed in the world”*

— (John Calvin, Commentary on Genesis, Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/calvin\\_john/Gen/Gen01.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/calvin_john/Gen/Gen01.cfm))

God is \_\_\_\_\_

### **Genesis 3:8-13 ESV**

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**Because Adam and Eve cut themselves off from God, their generous hospitable provider, they won't get to experience the full blessings of that provision, of painless children, of painless loving leadership, of painless work, of painless life... forever.**

### **Genesis 3:15, 20-21 ESV**

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ...20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

**Even in their mess, even as they are strangers hiding from God, God provides clothing, cover, and protection for them... God is still being hospitable.**

### **Ephesians 2:1-6 ESV**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our

trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

*“God’s relationship with us surrounds us like a house. It is essential, the frame and backdrop for all thinking, being, and doing. We are at home in the divine presence in a way that is deeper than consciousness”*

— (Luci Shaw, introduction to *Breath for the Bones: Art Imagination, and Spirit: A Reflection on Creativity and Faith* [Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007], Kindle).

**God is hospitable in our \_\_\_\_\_, and we can find our \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.**

## Discussion Questions – January 21, 2024

### Getting to know you Questions:

1. Has anyone ever experienced a “Home Alone” type situation?
2. What does a good home feel like to you?
3. When you think of the word “Hospitality,” what do you think of? Does God come to mind when you think of it? Why or why not?

### Into the Bible Questions:

Read Genesis 1:3-5, 26-29

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day...

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

4. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
5. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
6. When have you been the recipient of life-giving hospitality? What is your attitude toward hospitality? What’s hard about it? What’s exciting?
7. In what ways has God been hospitable to the human race?
8. How does God’s being hospitable to you and to the human race affect your view of hospitality?

Read Genesis 3:21

21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

9. What ways has God welcomed you?
10. How has the church welcomed you?

**For Extra Study, Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

11. From this passage, what are some ways God is hospitable?
12. What do you find challenging about trusting God?
13. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?
14. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

**Application Questions**

15. This week, how can you remind yourself that God has been Hospitable to you?
16. How could you apply that mindset to “messy” situations?
17. What mindsets do you need to give up so you can be hospitable?
18. Take this week to pray for yourselves and each other about being growing in your hospitality.