

# ncff Engage HOSPITALITY



There is nothing quite so nice as arriving somewhere new, amongst people you don't really know, and yet somehow being made to feel "right-at-home" in the most positive of ways. That's called hospitality, and providing it, in all arenas of life, pays off in big ways! For example: When a business is able to produce a hospitable feeling of comfortable trust for potential buyers, it gains long term clients. When a branch of the armed forces is able to convince a recruit that this is where they truly belong because they're genuinely accepted, it produces career servicemen and servicewomen. When a state is able to convince people that it is the best fit for their lifestyle, it gains a loyal increase in population. Similarly, when a church learns and lives what the Bible says about **godly hospitality**, that church is going to show Jesus, and grow for Jesus. Today, as NCFE finishes our current teaching series called **ENGAGE**, we'll be focusing on re-discovering what has become, in our current culture, the lost art of Christian hospitality. As we do, we'll be learning about one of the most important ways we can love Jesus, love people, and love people to Jesus. And, oh yes, when we practice hospitality, it transforms our hearts to be more like Jesus!

## DEFINING HOSPITALITY

(Matthew 25:35-40,45)

Hospitality is helping others feel ...

## DESCRIBING HOSPITALITY

1. (John 14:2-3) Hospitality is ...
2. (Ephesians 6:7) Hospitality combines ...
3. (Leviticus 19:34) Hospitality happens the more we recall ...
4. (Romans 12:13) Hospitality is a big time ...
5. (1 Timothy 5:5,10) Hospitality is a true sign of ...
6. (1 Timothy 3:2) Hospitality is to be modeled for the Church by ...

7. (Luke 5:29) Hospitality plays a huge role in ...
8. (Hebrews 13:2) Hospitality is full of ...

## DOING HOSPITALITY

1. (Lamentations 3:22-23) We gotta be humbly, daily, acutely, gratefully ...
2. (1 Peter 4:9) We gotta get the right ...
3. (Romans 12:13) We gotta give it our ...
4. (Hebrews 13:2) We gotta look hard for ...

## FOR THOUGHT & TALK

*In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.*

1. Read aloud **Matthew 25:35-40,45** from the NLT. As you look at this passage what are the many practical ways that you see hospitality being demonstrated? Did you notice (vv.37-40) that the ones extending hospitality seemed to be unaware that they were actually ministering to the heart of Christ? What do you make of that? And what do you make of what Jesus said to those who did not show hospitality? Which group would you want to be part of?
2. What are some of the ways that Jesus has been, is being, and will be hospitable to His followers forever? How can being humbly, daily, acutely, & gratefully overwhelmed by God's hospitality to us motivate and inspire us to be hospitable to others? Why humbly? Why daily? Why acutely? Why gratefully? What does "overwhelmed" in this context mean?
3. Describe the most consistently hospitable person you know? What has been some of the best experiences you've had in terms of receiving hospitality from another? What has been some of the best experiences you've had when it comes to you extending hospitality to another? How can being hospitable help lead people to faith in Jesus? Why is continuing to show hospitality to those who are Christians important to their ongoing spiritual growth? What will be the impact upon a church when its members practice hospitality at a high level?
4. What did the Holy Spirit say to you personally about the role hospitality needs to have in your own life? How will you show more hospitality to your brothers & sisters at NCFE? How do you need to show more hospitality to folks you know, but who do not follow Jesus? What will make hospitality fun for you to do?