



REFLECT

1. What person in your life has been an example to you of Christian hospitality? How?
2. In what situations have you felt unwelcome by a stranger? What actions from others made you feel unwelcome?

ENCOUNTER

1 Peter 4:9 says, “Be hospitable to one another without complaining” (CSB). Hospitality (*philoxenia* in Greek) literally means “lover of strangers” (*philo* and *xenos*). If we’re honest, most of us struggle to reach out to strangers, let alone care for and serve them. Let’s look at two different examples of hospitality in the Old Testament.

Though not readily apparent in Genesis 18:1-15, Abraham shows hospitality to three men in a positive way. In Genesis 19:1-13, Lot shows hospitality to two of the same men in a negative way.

3. After reading these passages, what were the differences between Abraham and Lot’s hospitality?
4. What did Abraham do right? What did Lot do wrong?

Hospitality was key in the conversion of Rosaria Butterfield. Though she was a hardened opponent of the gospel, the faithful, simple, sacrificial hospitality of Ken and Floyd gave the Spirit the opportunity to soften her heart to the good news of Jesus Christ. Now a Christian, Rosaria Butterfield, in her book, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*, says this: “Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your

Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God.”

5. Why are we so averse to reaching out to strangers, both saved and unbelieving? What about engaging strangers makes us uncomfortable and fearful?

TRANSFORM

Again, Rosaria Butterfield says, “Hospitality shares what there is; that’s all. It’s not entertainment. It’s not supposed to be.”

6. What are some practical steps you could have to reach out to strangers with the gospel as the goal?
7. How might we utilize our growth group to reach the lost through Christian hospitality?

PRAYER REQUESTS

*Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing so
some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.
~ Hebrews 13:2 ~*