

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## AUTHENTIC LOVE IS HOSPITABLE

### THEME VERSE

*Matthew 23:39 "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself"*

**PASSAGE: Matthew 14: 13-21**

### ***Warm Up***

**Who is someone in your life that you think of as hospitable? Why?**

### ***The Feeding of the 5000 and What Is Hospitality (Matt 14: 13-21)***

The disciples ask Jesus to send the crowd away and instead He says, "feed them" and provides a miracle to provide the food. **What does that show about who Jesus is?**

### ***Home and Work Hospitality***

Home and Work are where we spend most of our time. **What are the challenges of being hospitable in our homes? At Work?**

### ***Costly Hospitality***

Being hospitable can be costly for our money, time, energy and comfort. **What helps people look past the costs and still be hospitable?**

### ***Gospel Hospitality***

Opening up our private lives to strangers helps strangers open up to the gospel. **What is it about spending time in homes and over meals that allows people to see and experience God's grace?**

### **Reflection Question:**

Being hospitable can be hard because it requires us to be open and transparent, and many times we feel don't have much to offer like the disciples did. But if we focus on Jesus and what He provides instead, than we don't have to be so self-conscious. **How open have you been to sharing your life with others lately? Ask God to give you opportunities to be hospitable.**

## Love That Is Hospitable

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-8 Lar: R&R. MOMS. Serving Op. A21. Reach Hurt Kids. CK Play. Harvest (no pic). *“H” People update.*
- B. Slide9 (3rd) Madeline Joy Lacasse (aka Maggie): Baby Ded. Andrew & Madeline.
- Here is a *real, tangible, bona fide* answer to prayer: they had been **fostering** praying for a child of their own for a long time. **Maggie was God’s answer to their prayer!** Her **adoption** was *recently finalized*.
- C. Slide10 Men, Tactical: a valley-wide conf, hosted by Reliance Church. 9/30,10/1 Fri/Sat.
- Speakers:** Ted Leavenworth. Andy Deane. Bill Buffington (Calv Inglewood). Erik Thoennes (Prof @ Biola). [CM web, “men’s” more info]
- D. Slide11 Patriot Day: *in memory* of the people killed in the Sept 11 attacks, 2001.
- E. Prayer: *Patriot Day* (these families forever changed. Our lives ...). *Fires/rain.*

### II. Slide12 Intro: Love That Is Hospitable [or radically ordinary hospitality]

- A. Over our **4 Sundays of Sept** we are looking at *Loving People Authentically* from our Mission Statement, using 4 diff stories from the NT, specifically towards **4 groups** of people: Last week we looked at *Family/friends*. *This week Neighbors/Community*.
- I just want to **remind you**, that **all** of our **children and youth** are studying the same story in the NT. **We're hoping that you'll get into discussions w/ them about what they've learned and you sharing what you've learned.**
- B. So Last week, *Sacrificial Love* ... makes a choice, makes a way, takes risks, & *sacrificial love is seen by Jesus*.
- C. Our 2nd is *Love That Is Hospitable*. We will be highlighting the phrase in the story of Jesus *feeding the 5000*, “*you feed them!*”
- The memory verse for this week, if you want extra points is, *Love your neighbor as yourself*. Mt.22:39.

2. This Wed night I'll be teaching on *the great story of David showing hospitality to Saul's grandson Mephibosheth*. 2 Sam.9.

#### D. Hospitality in the NT:

1. Jesus urged **hospitality** to be extended **beyond** the confines of home and tribe, **as illustrated** in the parables of the Midnight Visitor (Lk.11) and the Good Samaritan (Lk.10).
  2. Ministering to the needy is clearly expected by God, as made evident in Jesus' instruction regarding the judgment on the nations: *feeding the hungry, quenching the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned* (Mt.25).
  3. Failure to offer hospitality incurs judgment (Lk.16 Rich man & beggar Laz)
  4. Jesus scolded *Simon the Pharisee* for being a poor host: *no water* for washing his feet, *no greeting* of Jesus with a kiss, and *no oil* for anointing his head (Lk.7:44-46).
- E. Our story is taken from Mt.14:13-21. **But remember** it must be important, it is the only miracle that is in all 4 gospels! (besides res)

### III. Slide13 **FEEDING THE 5000** (Mt.14:13-21) (dealt w/in detail back in June, Lk.9:1-17)

#### A. READ Text.

B. This morning's focus is on 2 of Jesus' statements: *you give them something to eat* (what does need to happen). **And**, *Bring them here to me* (how it can & will happen).

1. See this as *a mini picture Jesus' hospitality*. Jesus was a host, a guest, and **the meal** (the Passover Lamb). **He lived hospitality**.

C. **Send them away?** - Jesus teaches *never* send someone away who is **hungry** [spiritually, emotionally, or physically hungry]

D. Jesus will give us seemingly impossible challenges ... *you give them something to eat*. May this be written on every church, & every believing heart. *We have the bread that satisfies* ... *you give them something to eat*. (don't hear them, hear **YOU!**)

- E. We asked, **who fed them, the disciples or Jesus?** The answer was *yes*.
1. **The disciples** showed *hospitable behavior* ... **but only with God's help!**
  2. The story reminds of how *inadequate* we are, **but** how *adequate* He is.
    - a) *Bring them here to me* - That's our *one job!*
- F. **Blessed & broke** – We are not manufacturers, we are only *distributors*. (the miracle took place *in Jesus hands*, **not theirs**)
1. Jesus didn't only **feed** the 5000, **but** he **taught** the 12 ... **and even sends them home w/a doggie-bag reminder.**
  2. Instead of *telling Jesus what to do*, let Him bring **you** back into a place of service as waiters.
    - a) This is a story about *dependence on God* with resources.
      - (1) This is the **God** we *serve*. The God who we *make much of*.
- G. **Slide14** Jesus didn't come just to **give** bread **but** to **BE** bread.
1. **And** we were not left here to **do** hospitable things, **but** to **BE** hospitality.

#### IV. Slide15a **WHAT IS LOVE THAT IS HOSPITABLE?**

- A. Hospitality is both **an attitude of the heart** *and also* a practice of the **hand**. *Bethany Jenkins*
1. Throughout Scripture, God calls his people to show hospitality to **strangers** - *orphans, foreigners, the poor, widows, and more* (Dt.10:18,19)
- B. Hospitality, means *love/fond of strangers*, **not friends** (that's *philo-delphia*).
1. **Philo-xenian** (philo-Zenian) *Love of Stranger*.
  2. Hospitality is the **exact opposite** of *xenophobia* (*fear or hate of a stranger*)
- C. **Slide15b** *It seeks to turn strangers into friends through acts of welcome and generosity.* *Bethany Jenkins*
1. Rosaria Butterfield, *Turning strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family.*
  2. John Mark Comer, *"Expressing the welcome of God the Father to all, through tangible acts of love, namely through giving food, shelter, and relationship."*

3. Slide16 Rom.12:13 NLT **Always be eager to practice hospitality.** (it's a command!)
  - a) This pops up in a list that **starts** w/*let your love be genuine* (12:9), **and**, it **ends** with *don't become overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good* (12:21).
  - b) **Always be eager to practice**/διώκοντες/*diokontes* = *to do something with intense effort and with a definite purpose or goal.*
4. 1Pet.4:8-10 **Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.** (How do we do that?) **Offer hospitality to one another** (& now for all of us introverts & neat freaks) **without grumbling.**
5. Heb.13:22 **Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to **show hospitality to strangers**, for by so doing some people will have shown **hospitality to angels** without knowing it.**

#### D. Slide17a *Love That Is Hospitable ISN'T ...*

1. **Dinner with friends** (that's called, *dinner with friends*).
  - a) **Remember** hospitality is *the love or welcoming of a stranger.*
2. **Gender specific** (many men hear *Hospitality* and think, *my wife has that handled*). Maybe you think Martha Stuart **or** Good Housekeeping.
  - a) **Reminder**, *It is an imperative, it is a Command, for every Christian.*

#### E. **How do we show hospitality today?** It's *not complicated* - though that doesn't mean **Slide17b** it's **easy**. Here are 4 ways: *Love That Is Hospitable IS ...*

1. **Home Hospitality. Work Hospitality. Costly Hospitality. Gospel Hospitality**

### V. Slide18a **1 HOME HOSPITALITY**

- A. **This may look like:** *hosting a small group* at your home (*TY all OpUnity groups facilitators* - sure maybe some friends **but** it was open to whoever signed up).
- B. **It may look like:** inviting a neighbor to dinner, **or** listening to a friend over coffee.
  1. Of course these things can be done **in your home**, **but** home **isn't always the optimal place**, esp if you live in a dorm or small apartment, **or** live with

*listening ears* in the house. So in this section we're referring to the **private sphere** of your life. So whether down the street at Rival coffee, or a restaurant in town, or a park bench.

C. The Bible, *time and time again*, talks about *the holiness of eating together*.

1. **i.e.** Long dinners, with good food, good drink, good company, and good conversations, that center around our beliefs, hopes, and fears - that's a good dinner.

D. I personally think the highest form of **Home Hospitality** is fostering, adopting, or working with groups like **safe families**. (like Andrew & Madeline, *baby Maggie*)

1. **Right?** It's bringing in a stranger, **not** just to spend a night in your home, **not** just to move in, **but** to move into your **private/safe place**, move into your family. It's choosing to **turn a stranger into a friend, then into a family member, through acts of welcome & generosity, & the love of Jesus.**

E. **Slide18b** Lk.14:12-14 NLT **12** Then he (Jesus) *turned to his host*. "*When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,*" he said, "**don't** invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. *For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward.* **13** *Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.* **14** **Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.**" **Slide18c** [Jesus sets up *ordinary hospitality* with **eternal ramifications**]

1. Parents that are fostering and adopting ... **hold onto this when you're experiencing ingratitude from your kids.**

## VI. **Slide19a 2 WORK HOSPITALITY**

A. "80% of American office workers don't take regular lunch breaks. Instead, we eat alone at our desks in just 15 minutes. This trend is so common that social scientists have a name for it - *desktop dining*."<sup>1</sup> Bethany Jenkins

1. **Slide19b** So maybe hospitality looks like **eating together** in the company break room.

<sup>1</sup> Bethany Jenkins, Vice Pres at The Veritas Forum, Contributor at the Gospel Coalition.

a) One study of **fire houses** found more cooperative behavior and better performance when firefighters eat together. Brian Wansink said, *“You like your **job more** - and you like your **colleagues better**.”*

2. Or **maybe** it's **inviting** someone *you don't know very well*, out for lunch. **Maybe** it's leaving your office door open showing that you don't mind interruptions. **Maybe** it's inviting somebody you don't know very well to a morning or afternoon coffee run. **Maybe** it's inviting some of your **work friends** to hang out with your **church friends** (Steve Nic). **Maybe** it's *planning a meal schedule* for a non-believer at work, like we do at church.

## VII.Slide20 3 COSTLY HOSPITALITY

A. Lev.23:22 *When you harvest the crops of your land, **do not** harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, **and do not** pick up what the harvesters drop. **Leave it for the poor and the foreigners** living among you. I am the Lord your God.*

1. They lived off their harvest. **This cut into their proceeds. This cost them.**
2. This also ties back into “*Hospitality at your work place*”.

B. *But Home Hospitality is also Costly (Have Open Roof Hospitality. Taken from last weeks story of the 4 men who brought their paralytic friend & lowered him thru the roof in front of Jesus, because the house was packed)*

1. **Do I have an “open roof policy” in my home? Am I willing for my home to be filled, refashioned, even torn up so that people can meet with Jesus?**
  - a) Am I willing for carpet to be stained, a plant to be knocked over, coffee spilt, **so that laughter can be the music of my home?**

## VIII.Slide21a 4 GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

A. **People are almost always loved, not argued, towards faith.**

1. We often think the life of a Christian starts with **conversion, then community, then discipleship**. In reality, though, **it usually starts with community**. It happened that way for **both Kelly & I**, as we were invited

into a home Bible study where we *built authentic, hospitable relationships* with other Christians.

- B. *Slide21b* Maybe now more than ever before, *sharing our faith* is going to look like *Hospitality*. Think of it as *a warm dose of welcoming hospitality* which will often take many by surprise and possibly open up the door for opportunities to make disciples of Jesus.
1. *How do I start?* Literally, *Greet Everyone you See*. That's harder if you're an *introvert* (ask God for grace and strength).
  2. *Remember*, everyone you meet is *eternal*. You've never met a *mere mortal*. You've never met someone who doesn't *bear God's image*.
  3. Get to know people. Take an interest in them. *Let your inner curiosity out by asking open ended questions. Listen to them.*
- C. *Slide21c* In Jn.1:14 msg *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. Jesus* left his comfortable home in heaven, to come to us.
1. *Jesus ate with sinners and showed hospitality*. He was a **Host** and turned common things like loaves and fish into massive meals. *And then* in His death He left us *a family meal, the Lord's Supper*, to remember Him.
- D. *Slide21d* *Hospitality is simply turning strangers into friends :)*
1. It's opening *your life* and *your house* to those who believe differently than you do. *They often are outliers, outsiders* to our culture or our beliefs. *Don't run away from differences, or for those who think differently, or look differently than we do.* Jesus always moved towards those people. *God move towards you and I with radical hospitality.* We love the outsider because we were the outsider.
- E. *Slide22a* Many in the Christian field would consider the best **book** on **hospitality** "*The Gospel Comes with a House Key.*" by Rosaria Butterfield.
1. Rosaria was *a tenured professor of English* at Syracuse University. Who's specialty was *post modern critical theory*. And was a very outspoken Lesbian.

2. She was writing a book basically about *how Bible believing Christians are the worst & the source of all patriarchy*. And to write this book she had to do research and actually spend some time with *the Bible believing Christian* that she had grown to hate.
  3. She wrote a very angry OpEd many years ago against a movement called *Promise Keepers* (a Christian men's movement back in the day). And a local pastor (Ken Smith) reached out and very gently said, *I read your article thank you so much for your thoughts, we'd would love to have you over for dinner*. Since she had to do research anyway, she said yes. She enjoyed the conversations and started coming over to their house on a regular basis. She found *their life, & family, & their faith* to be more compelling than anything that she had ever come to experience over time.
  4. Through that process she became a follower of Jesus. Today she is a brilliant writer, foster-homeschool mom, & wife to a Presbyterian pastor. And her basic case is *That the LGBTQ community does a way better job at welcoming strangers than the church*. And that we need to re-capture *this ancient practice as a heritage and not a fringe idea for extroverted people with a nice home who like to entertain, but as core to following Jesus*.
- F. Slide22b *“Radically ordinary hospitality - those who live it see strangers as neighbors and neighbors as family of God. They recoil at reducing a person to a category or a label. This is God's image reflected in the eyes of every human being on earth. Those who live out **radically ordinary hospitality** see their homes not as theirs at all but as God's gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that *the gospel comes with a house key*.”* Rosaria Butterfield
- G. Keywords: love, hospitality, stranger.