

Hospitality: All right for some?

opening our eyes

Reflect on the previous session on worldview and share what you've been thinking about or doing since then.

Warm-up question: Reflect on a situation when you've felt like a stranger. What made you feel this way and did anyone make you feel welcome?

finding our hope

In the beginning
created the
and the

Bible discussion (20 mins):
Luke 14:15-24

Welcoming strangers into our lives and homes goes against the grain of our culture. Yet the words and actions of the prophets, including Jesus, challenge this cultural norm. In this passage, Jesus tells the parable of a great banquet where hospitality is rejected by the invited guests and extended to include strangers.

Discuss:

- How might this story inspire or challenge you in the way you receive and offer hospitality?
- An important part of hospitality is a shared meal. As a guest, Jesus ate with sinners and he taught hosts to welcome strangers. By doing this, Jesus challenged the worldview of those around him, breaking strong cultural boundaries that determined who was able to eat together. The hospitality that Jesus demonstrated, as we see in this passage, was subversive or even rebellious, because it included people so many others would avoid. Have you ever experienced this kind of hospitality?



DVD film and discussion: Session two (30 mins)

In this clip, Johnny Sertin, Dawn Curran, Cyprian Yobera and Ann-Marie Wilson reflect on their experiences of hospitality. You might like to make a mental note (or jot down a reminder) of any words or ideas that you find particularly striking so you can discuss them with the group.

loving God's world



In what practical ways are you already engaging in hospitality? Are there other ways you might like to further respond? There are some suggested activities in the course guide.

For next week

Use this space to write down anything your group commits to do to prepare for the next session.

Prayer

Reflect on a time when you have felt like a stranger and experienced the hospitality of others, and when you have had the opportunity to offer hospitality to a stranger.

Thank you Lord for your generous hospitality,
thank you for welcoming us into your family,
for loving and accepting who we are.

In the busyness of life, help us to notice strangers,
give us the courage to cross new thresholds
and to show your love to others.

In our encounters with those who are not like us,
open our eyes to new ways of seeing and understanding,
help us to listen and to learn.

Thank you that you know what it's like to be a stranger.
Help us to remember that in welcoming strangers
we are welcoming you.

Amen



The call in action