

Table Fellowship — Biblical Hospitality

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1 Timothy 5:9-10 No widow is to be enrolled on the list for support unless she is at least sixty years old, has been the wife of one husband, and is well known for good works—that is, if she has brought up children, **shown hospitality**, washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work.

Entertaining vs. Hospitality:

Our biblical commands to practice hospitality:

Leviticus 19:33-34, Luke 14:12-14, Romans 12:12-13, 1 Peter 4:8-10

Key Point: Hospitality is **NOT** Entertaining. Hospitality shows people **Jesus**, not ourselves.

1. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I’m an introvert.”

“Knowing your personality and your sensitivities does not excuse you from ministry. It means that you need to prepare for it differently than others might.” Rosaria Butterfield

2. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I have a small home.”

God will accomplish amazing things when we trust in His provision! Five loaves and two fish for 5,000!

3. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I have a busy schedule.”

Make hospitality a priority! Build time for it into your schedule.

4. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I don’t know how to start.”

Start by meeting the physical needs of those in our church and in your own communities.

5. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I live with roommates/parents.”

Communication is key! Communicate how your shared living space will be used to glorify God and others.

6. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I have kids.”

I wholeheartedly encourage you to view children as a resource, not a hindrance! It is lifegiving for children to witness the powerful effects of sharing the Gospel with the lost and serving the saints.

7. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I’m in high school/middle school.”

While hospitality can be the friendly reception of someone into a home, it doesn't have to be JUST that. It can be the friendly reception of someone into your friend circle, youth group, and life!

8. Overcoming the obstacle of: “I can’t cook/It’s too expensive.”

Remember, hospitality is NOT entertaining! The meal does not need to be expensive or elaborate. It's amazing how comforting people find a bowl of chili and cornbread! Ask someone who you know likes to cook, to teach you a few simple meals and just practice those!

Key Point: The people you **invite to your table** will have an opportunity to **encounter the love of Jesus**.

Discussion Questions:

1.(Icebreaker) What is your favorite home-cooked meal to eat?

2.Share a time when you were shown biblical hospitality, how did it make you feel?

3.What are the obstacles that prevent you from practicing biblical hospitality?

4. What can you do to overcome the obstacles you listed?

5. Pray for one another in what each woman shared.

Resources For Further Study:

Making Room By Dr. Christine D. Pohl

A Meal With Jesus By Tim Chester

Holy Hygge by Jamie Erickson

The Gospel Comes With a Housekey By Rosaria Butterfield

Extraordinary Hospitality By Carolyn Lacey

The Lifegiving Home By Sally Clarkson

Made for People By Justin Whitmel Earley