



THE CAMPUS CHURCH
LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

The Time is Now

Small Group Discussion Resource

Hospitality

Well, this is our last episode in our study on 1 Peter 4:7-11. We hope this part of God's word has enriched your life. As you begin your discussion, spend some time praying that God would use this passage one more time to inspire and challenge you.

1. Read the passage together in unison.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ **Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.** ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

2. Having a sense of belonging is important for everyone. React to this quote.

"The neighborhood bar is possibly the best counterfeit there is to the fellowship Christ wants to give His church. It's an imitation dispensing liquor instead of grace, escape rather than reality. But it is a permissive, accepting, and inclusive fellowship. It is un-shockable. It is democratic. You can tell people secrets and they usually don't tell others or want to. The bar flourishes not because most people are alcoholics, but because God has put into the human heart the desire to know and be known, to love and be loved, and so many seek a counterfeit at the price of a few beers." - Bruce Larson

3. Why do you think God had Peter add the phrase... without grumbling? Share some times when you were offering hospitality, but did so with the wrong attitude.
4. React to this quote from the British preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. "Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or other animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people."
5. In her book, *Open Heart, Open*, Karen Mains show the difference between entertaining and hospitality. Below is how she explains the difference. How can we move from entertaining to showing real hospitality?

Entertaining says, "I want to impress you with my home, my clever decorating, my cooking."
Hospitality, seeking to minister, says, "This home is a gift from my Master. I use it as He desires." Hospitality aims to serve.

Entertaining puts things before people. "As soon as I get the house finished, the living room decorated, my housecleaning done—then I will start inviting people. Hospitality puts people first. "No furniture—we'll eat on the floor." "The decorating may never get done—you come anyway." "The house is a mess—but you are friends—come home with us."

Entertaining subtly declares, "This home is mine, an expression of my personality. Look, please, and admire." Hospitality whispers, "What is mine is yours."

What do you do when someone just drops by unexpectedly and expresses a desire and need to talk to you or simply fellowship with you?

*Keep them outside until the house is clean...**entertainer**...*

*Welcome them in, provide a road map through the legos, past the cars, over the stuffed animals and round the baby dolls, dodging the pet hair...to a seat in your living room or at your dining room table... That is **showing hospitality**.*

6. React to this quote: Showing biblical hospitality to others doesn't come from a fancy table that says "look at me and what I have". It comes from the loving heart that says "what I have is yours". Kevin Kinnett
7. Philoxenia is the Greek word for Hospitality in the New Testament. It comes from the words Philo (love) and Xenia (stranger/outsider), what does it mean for us to love the stranger or outsider? Why is it so hard sometimes?
8. Read Romans 12:9-13 together, then react to this quote.
*"Practice, in the sense of "the clinical scope of work we do **every day**" corresponds to the first definition of the word, "to be professionally engaged in" or "to do or perform often, customarily, or habitually."*

Think especially about what it means to be engaged in hospitality every day, as opposed to just at special occasions.
9. In our week on serving, we talked about using the gifts that we're given. Re-read 1 Peter 4:10, and discuss how hospitality can be a gift, but for those who might not have that particular gift, what is our response instead?
10. Read Leviticus 19:33-34. Why does God make such a big deal about the Israelites showing hospitality to the foreigners living in their camps, towns and cities? What's the implication for us?
11. In Luke 7:34, it starts by saying this: *The Son of Man came eating and drinking...* What does this tell us about the method that Jesus uses as a means of evangelism?
12. Discuss this quote from Tim Chester's *A Meal with Jesus*:
"“Son of Man” is Daniel's label for one who comes before God to receive authority over the nations (Daniel 7). Now Jesus, the Son of Man, has come. But how does he come? Does he come with an army of angels? Does he come on the clouds of heaven? Does he come with a blaze of glory? No. He comes eating and drinking."

13. During the teaching, the idea of “Strategic Hospitality” was introduced. And it was defined as: *“A hospitality that thinks strategically and asks: How can I draw the most people into a deep experience of God's hospitality by the use of my home or my church home?”*

How can we practice strategic hospitality right now at The Campus Church and in our homes?

14. This this passage from Luke 5:27-32

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

What does this tell us about how we should interact with communion? God’s rescue mission for us? Our responsibility towards hospitality and evangelism. Consider all that you’ve learned this week in the sermons and in this discussion to try to put together a “bottom line thought”.

15. Come up with a plan of action as a small group or as families to be intentional about hospitality regularly.