



# PURSUING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

## Study 3: Hospitality & Generosity

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### ICE BREAKER

What biography have you read, or person's life story have you heard, that made an impact on you?

(Be sure to just share in a couple lines how this was impactful :-)

### OPENING PRAYER

### LOOPING BACK

(If you committed as a group to access the articles and tools.)

How were the articles and tools you accessed on your own beneficial to your understanding of last week's discussion on worship and mission? Is there anything in particular you desire to change as a result?

### INTRODUCING OUR TOPIC *(invite 1 person to read and then discuss very briefly)*

Of the many characteristics of God, two to consider as we think about Biblical Community are hospitality and generosity. God is immensely full of both. God welcomes us to His family (John 1:12), He invites us to a banquet (Isaiah 25:6) and He prepares an eternal lodging for us (John 14:1-3). No one could be more generous than God. He, who has limitless riches, gave his only Son that we would not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

We see the practices of both extending all the way back to Genesis, especially among the vulnerable and to strangers. Hospitality included more than meals. It became central to the very identity of what it meant to be the People of God. "Treat the foreigner the same as the native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you

were once foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” (Lev. 19:34, MSG). In the New Testament, we see Jesus practicing and teaching both. In Luke 9 Jesus sends out the twelve without provisions and bids them to rely on the hospitality and generosity of others. And in the New Testament, the Greek word for hospitality is philoxenia - “the love of strangers” (the opposite of xenophobia).

As His followers, we can be both providers and recipients of the hospitality and generosity of God.

## **OPENING OUR BIBLES**

1. Everyone turns to passage and have one person read it out loud
2. Pause for a moment and allow people to quietly reflect on the passage
3. Ask the question/s in the text box after reading all passages
4. Passages with an asterisk are optional depending on timing

### **Section 1:**

Genesis 18:1-8

Matthew 25:31-40

Nehemiah 5:14-19 (\*optional)

What do we observe about hospitality from the following passages?

### **Section 2:** Assign 5 people to each read a passage

(for the sake of time they can be read consecutively without everyone turning to each passage)

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 14:12-14

Romans 12:13, 20

Hebrews 13:1-2

1 Peter 4:9-10

How do these passages enhance your understanding of biblical hospitality?

## **APPLICATION**

Reflecting on both Hospitality & Generosity from our study today, what is your one take home for you personally? How might you put that into practice even this week. Consider a tangible measurable action, “this week I will .....

(Be sure to check in with one another next time you meet to see how that went, or even check in with one another via text during the week. Accountability is a wonderful motivator for us to do what we set out to do in life.)

Also see a helpful assessment under enhancement for this week!

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

There are blank pages at the back of your study to jot down prayer requests.

- ❖ Take a moment to look over past requests shared and consider how God has answered some of them. Take time together to thank God for these answered prayers and continue to pray for areas that are still prayer needs.
- ❖ If you have time share prayer requests
- ❖ If you are limited in time, break into smaller clusters for prayer
- ❖ If you are very short on time, one person to close in prayer

## **ENHANCEMENT**

At the end of this week’s study you will find some personal reflection questions. Take some time today or during your next time alone with God and assess how you are doing in the areas of hospitality and generosity. Engage with God and invite Him into the process.

Also, on our NCC website <https://www.newtoncovenant.org/pbc> under this week's topic you will also find an excellent article entitled “Making A Place for Hospitality” by Christine Pohl. We encourage you to read it. You will also find some tools for further study and some excellent principles to consider as you think of hospitality and what that looks like. Let’s be willing to be stretched in these areas of our lives!

## PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Reflect on Hospitality & Generosity and take some time to do a basic assessment using the following questions as a guide:

1. Do I consider myself to be a hospitable person? Why or why not?
2. Do I consider myself to be a generous person? Why or why not?
3. Do other people consider me to be hospitable or generous?
4. Using the 10% tithe guideline, do I give generously of my time, possessions or money? Why or why not?
5. Are there practical steps I can take to live more hospitably and give generously? Are there some steps we could take together as a Community Group? (consider bringing these ideas back to your group next time you meet)