

USING HOSPITALITY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Hospitality:

- During the growth of the early church the home served as a center for evangelism
- Hospitality is a big part of God's heart (Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 4:9)
- It is humbling and stretching to allow others into your lives to see you live the gospel up close and personal
- God can take the mundane, the chaos and the mess, and turn it into holy ground moments

Myths or Barriers to Hospitality:

- I don't have a nice home or the space to invite people to
 - You can invite others to join you whether it is for a meal, a board game, or a movie night; things normal people do on a day-to-day basis.
 - God is not limited to the space you have, whatever you offer to Him, He can bless it
- I don't have the time
 - You have to eat your meals anyway, so just set an extra plate and invite the stranger in – you don't have to go out of your way to make something fancy
 - If you give God the little time you have in your life for the stranger that He brings your way, He will multiply your time, your generosity and your energy
- I don't have the gift of hospitality
 - We are ALL called to be hospitable – the bible clearly exemplifies this
 - Hospitality in the Greek is *philoxenia*, which means LOVE for the STRANGER

Using Your Home to Reach Internationals:

- Shows Jesus up close and personal in your life and marriage
- When you live your life in authenticity and vulnerability God is glorified in both your strengths and your weaknesses
- Be intentional about your home décor
- Consider a "Memorial Box" filled with symbols of the Lord's faithfulness
- Have prayer times and worship at the house
- Have your bibles open often and find scriptural truth to answers for your own lives and when students come to you with different situations
- God can use radically ordinary hospitality to bring the gospel to the lost
- When you welcome those who look, think, believe and act differently from you into your everyday life it helps them see what true Christian faith looks like

Some Practical Steps You Can Take:

- Start small – Invite one or two internationals to your home
 - Be intentional – You have to decide to make space for it in your life
 - Don't overcomplicate it
 - When you sit down to eat, always pray for food and the needs that are before you
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