

## Brian Chesemore

# SESSION 1 | God's Hospitality

## I. INTRO

**Snapshot Testimony 1:** Hospitality through our limitations

**Snapshot Testimony 2:** Emulate God's hospitality on Sundays

### A. Goals:

- Deepen our biblical convictions regarding hospitality
- Broaden our repertoire of hospitality ideas
- Develop the skills and ideas that enhance our hospitality
- Extend God's "welcome" to friends, neighbors and strangers

### B. Book Recommendations:

- The Hospitality Commands by Alexander Strauch
- The Gospel Comes with a House Key by Rosaria Butterfield
- A Meal With Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table by Tim Chester
- Caring for One Another by Ed Welch

### C. Defining Hospitality:

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12.13) The Greek word here for hospitality is PHILOZENIA. Hospitality is simply showing love to strangers.*

### D. Saints Commended:

- "The sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler" *Job 31:32*
- "Let a widow be enrolled if she...has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work." *1 Timothy 5:9-10*
- It's through the opening up of homes, that the church was enabled to meet regularly: Romans 16.3-5; 1 Corinthians 16.19; Col 4.15; Philemon 2.
- Paul's own experience as he penned the epistle of Romans--16.23

**E. Saints Commanded**

- “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” *Romans 12:13*
- “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” *Hebrews 13:2*
- “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” *1 Peter 4:9*
- “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” *Romans 15:7*
- “Whatever you do for the least of these...” *Matthew 25:35-46*

*“Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God’s gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know the gospel comes with a house key.”*  
– Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a Housekey*, pg 11

*“When radically ordinary hospitality is lived out, members of God’s household are told that they are not alone in their struggles or their joys. Radically ordinary hospitality is accompanied suffering... This is what radically ordinary hospitality accomplishes in the Lord’s grace. It meets people as strangers and makes them neighbors; it meets neighbors and makes them family.”*– Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a Housekey*, pg 13

**II. BIBLICAL PICTURES OF GOD’S HOSPITALITY****A. His Garden**

“You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.” *Psalms 104:14-15*

**B. His Temple****C. His Promised Land****D. His Table**

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” *Psalms 23:5-6*

E. His Family: the Church

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” *Ephesians 2:19*

F. His Heaven

“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”  
*Revelation 19:9*

### III. GOD-CENTERED REASONS FOR HOSPITALITY

- Emulate God’s display of hospitality

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” *Romans 15:7 (cf. Eph. 5:1)*

- Extend God’s grace

“It’s good to be reminded that the table is a very ordinary place, a place so routine and everyday it’s easily overlooked as a place of ministry. And this business of hospitality that lies at the heart of Christian mission, it’s a very ordinary thing; it’s not rocket science nor is it terribly glamorous. Yet it is the very ordinariness of the table and of the ministry we exercise there that renders these elements of Christian life so important to the mission of the church...Most of what you do as a community of hospitality will go unnoticed and unrecognized. At base, hospitality is about providing a space for God’s Spirit to move. Setting a table...is the ministry of facilitation: providing a context in which people feel loved and welcome and where God’s Spirit can be at work in their lives.” –Tim Chester, *A Meal with Jesus*, pg 90-91

“All the biblical stories of the Lord moving toward people are stories of grace. Grace is God’s moving toward us in Christ...So we move towards others. Those initial steps might look like this:

The Lord calls us family, so we greet warmly. The Lord knows our name, so we learn someone’s name. The Lord knows seemingly irrelevant details about us, such as the number of hairs on our heads, so we take an interest in details. Is the person new to your gathering? Where does he or she live? Does she work, go to school, manage a home?” –Ed Welch, *Caring for One Another*, pg.18-20

**Hospitality involves extending God’s gracious welcome in practical and personal ways because of the lavish grace we have received.**