

THE GOSPEL



Week 5: Hospitality “Open home, open hearts”

Romans 12.13, 1 Peter 4.9

OPEN

Welcome to our series called **“The Gospel”** (or good news) in which we have been reflecting on a different dimension of its message each week. For the last two weeks, we have been pondering the question “How does the gospel fit into and find a home within our surrounding culture in which we, as Christ followers, find ourselves “exiled” to the margins of influence? We learnt from Jeremiah that, in exile, God calls us not to merely survive but thrive by seeking the good of “Babylon”—the city we live in. Last week we learnt that one of the ways to do this is to fulfil our calling as a royal priesthood and bless people around us with carefully chosen, God-shaped words. Today we look at yet another way to seek Babylon’s good—the use of our homes to forge heart to heart relationships with people.

SHARE & RECONNECT

- Share about time when you were invited to a home (non-family) for a meal and which you left inspired, energized, thankful....What contributed to that?

READING

- Read the following two conversations the risen Jesus had with disheartened disciples, both set in the context of a meal:
 - Luke 24.25-35; John 21.4-17
 - List all the similarities and differences between these two settings and encounters.
- Read Acts 2.42-47. What are the common links between this passage and the preceding two? What do you think they talked about during these meals?
- Share any insights from these texts for living today.

REFLECT

- Review the following verses:
 - **Romans 12.13** *Contribute to the needs of the saints and **seek** (pursue, run after) to show hospitality. In practice, what does "pursuing hospitality involve?*
 - **3 John 5-8** *Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may **work together for the truth**. How would showing hospitality to travelling evangelists etc be "working together for the truth?*
 - **1Peter 4.9** *Show hospitality to one another **without grumbling**. Why does Peter add the phrase "without grumbling"?*
- The sermon mentioned a survey that identified these top four reasons people gave for not practising (more) hospitality
 - Busyness; Preparation fatigue; Cost; "Im scared" of _____??
 - Brainstorm any additions to this list.
 - Have each group member share "their top two".
 - Taken together, how might all the Scriptures you have read so far help neutralize the "objections" identified in the survey?
- The sermon mentioned the offsetting benefits of practising hospitality. Recall those and add to the list.
- How might our homes provide setting to seek the good of the Babylonians amongst whom we live?

PRAY

- Confess and repent of the ways in which our homes have become only "castles" to retreat to and not a means of pursuing hospitality (Be specific).
- Pray for the Spirit to do in the Wellspring congregation what He did to the first church (Acts 2.46.47)
- Pray for individuals —in the church and and in our Babylons (neighbourhood and work) whom you might consider inviting to your home for a meal.