

Cell Group Bible Study A Heartwarming Hospitality Sermon Series 2025

Introduction

Welcome to the start of our church's sermon series and cell group bible studies for 2025! We will be embarking on this journey for 9 weeks based on the sermon series.

Why study characters who have displayed hospitality in the bible?

1. To **benefit** those whom we want to show hospitality to. Jesus tells us that we are "the light of the world" and our responsibility is to "let our light shine before men" (Matthew 5:14-16). In doing so, those who receive the light will come to glorify our Father in heaven.
2. To **be blessed** ourselves as we extend God's blessings generously to others. Jesus declares the truth that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Our Lord does not ever want us to miss out on the blessing of being channels of God's blessings!
3. To **reflect God's nature** and **extend God's ministry**. Ultimately, we are hospitable because God is a hospitable God. We are only able to love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). And we are called to continue to grow in our Christlikeness each day.

What is a suggested cell group and bible study format?

1. You can incorporate the elements of the **4 W's** for your cell meeting: **Welcome** (personal thanksgiving), **Worship** (songs), **Word** (bible study) and **Works** (prayer for each other and planning and participating in upcoming events of the church).
2. Each of the bible study will consist of three elements:
 - a. **Introductory question** for discussion (related to the focus of the bible study)
 - b. **Discussion question(s)** based on the passage
 - c. **Possible application(s)** in daily life
3. You may not need to include all of the elements in a single cell group session but do not neglect any of the **4 W's** over the long term.

What can be helpful for cell members to be more involved?

1. Everyone should try to **read the bible passage** beforehand or during the meeting.
2. Cell members can be **rostered** to lead in the various elements within the cell meeting: welcome, worship, bible study or prayer. This will help involve more members for the cell.
3. In smaller groups, cell members can **keep in touch** with one another about how they have been applying the lessons learnt in the sermon/bible study throughout the week.

What is helpful for you as a cell leader to have a fruitful meeting?

1. Start and end every meeting **on time**. This honours the commitment that all the cell members have made to attend cell on time.
2. Encourage **everyone** to share and thank them for sharing – there are no wrong answers (unless it contradicts what God says!) and each opinion should be valued.
3. Look to **affirm** what your members are sharing – especially about how God may be speaking or leading them in their lives.
4. Feel free to stop at any point to elaborate if the Spirit is leading you to – **you don't have to complete all of the discussion questions**.
5. Keep your cell group meeting and your members in **prayer** throughout the week.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

Isaiah 54:2

A Heartwarming Hospitality Bible Study (5 Jan 25)

#1 – God in Christ: The Call to Hospitality

Big Idea – We are hospitable because God is a hospitable God

Key Verse: *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10

A. Introductory Question

1. Have you ever been a recipient of someone else’s hospitality? What was your experience and how did you feel? Share with one another.

B. Discussion Questions

[Read Ephesians 2:1-22]

The Apostle Paul seems eager in this passage to contrast the Ephesian Church’s former condition to their current condition. He repeats at length twice about how the Christians were before they came to salvation in Christ.

2. What do you think was Paul’s purpose in emphasizing the former condition of the members before they were saved? What do you think are the benefits of us remembering how we were like before knowing Christ?

In Ephesians 2:13, Paul then writes the hinge on which the entire passage turns. It is all about what Christ has done for us. He says, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

3. Read Ephesians 2:14-22. What did Jesus accomplish for us on the cross? List the benefits to us both individually and as a church.

C. Application

Biblical hospitality is all about **actions** that we intentionally take to extend God’s love towards others.

4. In what ways does knowing what God has done for us in Christ motivate us to be hospitable towards others?

Take some time to consider your aspirations for the year ahead in the light of the church’s direction of growing in hospitality.

5. What is one step you will take or action you will do to grow in hospitality in a practical way? Is there any ministry that you wish to be involved in? Pray for one another to be strengthened in this.

Have a blessed cell group sharing, discussion and prayer!

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