

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 (12 Jan 25)

#2 – Abraham: The Model of Hospitality

Big Idea – Our hospitality reflects our commitment to God’s justice and love

Key Verse: *“For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”* Genesis 18:19

A. Introductory Question

1. What was one memorable instance of your hospitality to another person or persons? What did you do? Share with one another.

B. Discussion Questions

[Read Genesis 18:1-19]

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham immediately embarked on entertaining the three visitors.

2. What stood out to you about Abraham's actions toward the three visitors in this passage? How does Abraham's hospitality reflect his relationship with God?

One of the visitors said to Abraham, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” (v10) Subsequently God said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.” (v17-18)

3. Why do you think God revealed His plans to Abraham in the context of this visit? What does this reveal to you about the effectiveness and power of hospitality?

God continued to say either to himself or his words were written to reveal his thoughts: “For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” (v19)

4. How does our hospitality reflect our commitment to God’s justice and love?

C. Application

Abraham’s response to the three visitors were remarkable, even for his time. He spared no expense in caring for them and meeting their needs. Share about:

5. What are some barriers that prevent us from showing hospitality to others?
6. How can we reflect God’s character through simple acts of hospitality in our daily lives?

Have a blessed cell group sharing, discussion and prayer!

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Isaiah 54:2