

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 (19 Jan 25)

#3 – Rahab: The Risk of Hospitality

Big Idea – Our hospitality requires us to step out of our comfort zone

Key Verse: *And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."* John 2:4

A. Introductory Question

1. Share an instance where you had go out of your comfort zone in reaching out to care for another person. How did you feel about that?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read John 2:1-11]

Jesus was told by his mother that the wine had run out at a wedding feast. The implication was that she wanted him help the bridegroom even though there was no record of the bridegroom even approaching her. His immediate response was *"Woman, what concern is that to you and me?"* (v4)

2. What do you think Jesus' answer revealed about his feelings towards his mother's implied request?

Yet like many mothers, Mary did not give up. She instructed the servants, *"Do whatever he tells you"* and Jesus responded by instructing them to fill six stone water-jars with water (v5-7).

3. What do you learn from Jesus' response? Share at least three reflections on this interesting episode in the life of Christ.

C. Application

Sometimes, hospitality involves us taking a risk to involve ourselves in the lives of others to help them. Share about:

4. Is there a line drawn between taking the initiative to help others and becoming too nosy to involve yourself in the affairs of others? Where is this line drawn?

As we enter into the season of Chinese New Year, many of us will be interacting with our extended family members and loved ones. We will be invited to many feasts.

5. Are you willing to take the risk of becoming a "busybody" to be involved in the lives of others like Mary did? Why or why not?

Have a blessed cell group sharing, discussion and prayer!

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

Isaiah 54:2