

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?

- a. 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).
- b. 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
- c. 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 (9 Feb 25)
#6 – Martha & Mary: The Pre-requisite to Hospitality

Big Idea – We have a choice: Choose to be with Christ

Key Verse: *“Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”* Luke 10:42 ESV

A. Introductory Question

1. Have you ever been unfairly dumped with work by your boss/teacher that is more compared to your other colleagues/classmates have been given? Share your experience and how you felt.

B. Discussion Questions

[Read Luke 10:38-42]

Martha was the one who first invited Jesus into her house. As such, she being busy with hosting activities to make her guest feel welcomed and cared for was natural and to be expected.

2. What was the author Luke’s view of Martha’s busyness? Justify your answer by referring to the words used in the passage.

Martha’s frustrations were compounded by seeing her sister sitting beside Jesus and conversing with him. This, however, is also a natural and needed duty for a host. Martha’s anger seems to point to something deeper that is going on in her heart.

3. What do you think Martha was *really* upset about with her sister Mary’s behaviour? Give reasons for your answer.

Jesus refused to be affected by Martha’s frustrations towards her sister. He could have easily sent Mary to help Martha but chose not to do so. Instead, he addressed Martha directly regarding her emotions.

4. What does Jesus answer to Martha show about his priority for Martha and Mary?

C. Application

Often we become distracted with the busyness of life’s demands or family or ministry responsibilities even though the things we have to do may be legitimate or even necessary. We minimise or neglect our devotion towards our Lord Jesus as a result. They have a detrimental long-term effect on our spiritual lives though it may not be evident in the short-term.

5. What is the one thing that is necessary that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about? Share it with the cell.

[For personal reflection]

The New International Version (NIV) translates verse 42 as: *“Mary has chosen what is **better**, and it will not be taken away from her.”* This is intriguing as the original Greek word *agathēn* means “good”.

I prefer the NIV translation as it brings out the emphasis of Jesus’ words. In life we are always presented with choices. Yet God does not leave us alone to make the choices by ourselves. He sends us His Holy Spirit to guide us by His word to make the better choice.

6. What is the one thing that you are called to forego in order to choose what is better? Use the upcoming season of Lent to pray for the Lord’s help forego it.

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