

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."

A Heartwarming Hospitality Bible Study (16 Feb 25)

#7 – Peter & Cornelius: The Openness of Hospitality

Big Idea – Are we willing for God to challenge our long-held perspectives?

Key Verse: *“Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” Acts 10:34-35 ESV*

A. Introductory Question

1. Describe a situation where you had to change your mind about something. What eventually convinced you to change your mind?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read Acts 10:1-48]

Cornelius, though a high-ranking soldier in the Roman army, displayed remarkable humility in being willing to change his mind. After receiving the vision from God, he proceeded to act on what he heard.

2. What were some of the actions that Cornelius did that showed his new perspectives? How significant were these actions? (You can refer to the entire chapter.)

The Apostle Peter must have been horrified to hear God’s voice commanding him to kill and eat the unclean animals. This was totally against the thrust of the Jewish teachings and practices to remain holy as God’s people, which he had been brought up to believe in.

3. What was the specific message that God was trying to communicate to Peter through the vision of the unclean animals? Why was there a need for the vision to be repeated three times?

This episode proved to be pivotal in the life of the early church. Without Acts 10, we will not be where we are today as the church of Christ. Many deeply held perspectives and beliefs were upended by God.

4. List out some of the beliefs that were totally debunked and changed by God in this passage. Do this by explaining what the previous belief was and what the people realised subsequently. What effect(s) do these changes have on our beliefs and our church today?

C. Application

Our strongly held beliefs and perspectives influence and impact our actions and behaviours in a very significant manner. This is especially true in our spiritual lives. They can lead to us being used mightily by the Lord or limit the power of God in our lives. This is why we are often exhorted to “walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

5. What are some of your beliefs that have been transformed after your study of this passage? How will you implement these changes in your life? Share it/them with the cell.

[For personal reflection]

Are there any other deeply held beliefs that you have about others, yourself or God that needs to be changed? More importantly, are you willing for God to change them in this season? Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and help in this journey.

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Isaiah 54:2