

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 (2 Mar 25)

#9 – The Church: The Community of Hospitality

Big Idea – We are all in this ministry of hospitality together!

Key Verse: *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* Acts 2:42 ESV

A. Introductory Question

1. Have you been blessed by the hospitality of someone in church? Or have your friend or someone you are reaching out to been helped by another person in church? Share your story with others!

B. Discussion Questions

[Read Acts 2:42-47]

*“And they devoted themselves to the **apostles’ teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**.”* (Acts 2:42) The early church devoted themselves to **four** common community practices.

2. Briefly describe each of the practice and their significance to the whole community.

The early church was greatly blessed by practicing these spiritual disciplines.

3. Briefly list at least *four* of the blessings that came upon the early church.

“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:27) The author Luke was very careful to attribute the growth of the early church to God’s sovereign work. He could have written the church grew by leaps and bounds but he did not.

4. What does this tell you about the focus that we in the church/cell should place on numerical growth?

C. Application

We have been studying about biblical hospitality for the past nine weeks with examples from characters such as Abraham, Rahab, the widow of Zarephath, Zaccheus, Martha and Mary, Peter and Cornelius and Philemon and Onesimus.

5. What is one lesson that stood out to you from the series? Why is this significant to you?

In this season, all of us are blessed with special opportunities to reach out to someone whom the Lord has placed in your life.

6. Share about one family member or friend that you are reaching out to. How can your cell group help in extending God’s hospitality to him/her in practical ways? Keep a list to pray for them as well as a cell.

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