

HOSPITALITY

Called To Be A Keeper Skill Session
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What is Hospitality?

- *Webster's Dictionary defines hospitality as receiving or entertaining guests generously and kindly.*
- *My definition is being willing to allow yourself and your possessions to be used by God to show love to other people.*

What does the Bible say?

- *Romans 12:13 "Always be eager to practice hospitality" NLT*
- *1 Peter 4:9 "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" NIV*

Preparing Your Heart:

- *The foundation of hospitality is a matter of stewardship. Stewardship is defined as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; the careful management of something entrusted to one's care."*
- *Who is the owner of all that you have?*
- *Hospitality is a process.*
 - *Knowing how*
 - *Being comfortable*
 - *Having the desire*
 - *Hospitality is a command, not an option*
- *Hospitality requires balance.*
 - *Don't neglect your family*
- *The difference between hospitality and entertaining*

Preparing Your Family:

- *Your Husband*
 - *Mine taught me*
 - *Stay within his level of comfort. Start small!*
- *Your Younger Children*
 - *Talk it up as something very special.*
 - *Prepare them by helping them think through how they will show hospitality to their guests. Possibly by letting the guest choose the activity first?*
 - *Give younger children an opportunity to put up a special possession.*
- *Your Upper Elementary and Middle School Children*
 - *Lay the foundation that you love having their friends over.*
 - *Realize this may not always be convenient.*
 - *Be aware and help them choose friends wisely.*
- *Your High School Children*
 - *Food, Food, Food*
 - *Be willing to be inconvenienced*
 - *Provide a safe place where they can feel autonomous*

Preparing Your Home:

1. *Be ready when you aren't ready*
 - Have an emergency plan
 - Have some supplies on hand
2. *What to check ahead of guest's arrival*
 - Front porch
 - Bathroom
 - Is a quick clean needed?
 - Overnight guests; welcome basket
3. *Have I made my home warm and inviting?*
 - Light candles
 - Turn lamps on
 - Write a personal message on a special plate
4. *Know your guests*
 - Do they like your animals?
 - Are they allergic to candles?
 - Are there any dietary restrictions?
5. *The set up*
 - Simple ideas to remember
 - Do it the same every time
 - Buffet works great (Remember your family goes last!)

Hospitality on a Budget:

- *Have people over for dessert instead of a main meal.*
- *Save money by serving tea instead of soda.*
- *Host a pot luck dinner and ask people what they would like to bring.*
- *Look for paper products on sale and stock up.*
- *Use extra paper products from other occasions.*
- *Hospitality is not always done in your home. You can be used by God to show hospitality anywhere you go. How about parties or other gatherings?*

Hospitality as Evangelism:

- *Always pray as a family before your guests arrive.*
- *Resurrection Eggs at Easter*
- *Give guests party favors that cause them to think about God after they have left your home*
- *Read the Christmas Story from Luke Chapter 2 at Christmas*
- *Thanksgiving corn*
- *Hospitals and Hospitality are similar words. Both reflect the giving and receiving of care, comfort, and encouragement.*

Handling Hard Issues:

- *Draw boundaries in a loving manner. Learn to graciously say no.*

Ladies, you can do this! Hospitality is a heart issue. It is not always easy, but it is always worth the effort.

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