



The Art of Hospitality

September 6, 2020

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Hospitality is an invitation and a command.

Icebreaker: When you have company for dinner, what's your go-to menu? Do you order out or home-cook? When was the last time you had company at your house? When was the last time you were company? Was it a special occasion or just "friendship and fellowship"?

Key Verse: *Always be eager to practice hospitality.* Romans 12:13b NLT

What could NewPointe do in this season that would so astonish our communities that they would be forced to reexamine what we believe and why we believe it? Consider practicing biblical hospitality, making space for people you don't have to. Paul believed that because of the hospitality God has shown to us through Jesus Christ, we must not only do it but be eager to do so. Jesus "neighbored us," became a part of our lives and lived among us, and we can't fulfill His mission unless we are willing to continue what He started.

Your ministry is your service to other believers; your mission is your service to nonbelievers in the world. All believers share a part in this, but you also have a specific responsibility yourself. Our mission has eternal significance! We are to introduce people to God—their forever destiny depends on it. Paul said he voluntarily became a servant of all because of his passion to reach people with the good news of Christ. That is our invitation and command too, and we do it through biblical hospitality. **WE INVEST IN PEOPLE.** The best way to gain influence with someone is to invest through serving. When I serve people I earn the right to be an influence in their lives. You must build a bridge that is strong enough to bear the weight of truth. We have to build respectful relationships. **WE VALUE PEOPLE.** All people are made in God's image and have intrinsic value. Jesus and Paul had a desire to connect with people more than correct them. Like God, they did not try to change people in order to accept them. There is great power in acceptance. The people who have the most influence over us are the ones we feel most accepted by. **WE INVITE PEOPLE.** A great way to do this as a team is to invite people to NewPointe@Home. We invite people to participate at home in a NewPointe service with us and connect them to God through an engaging experience and conversation. Investing, valuing, inviting—the people you connect with in these ways may very well be changed for eternity. God invites you to participate in this mission of eternal significance. Be eager to practice biblical hospitality.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Paul told us not to just pretend to love people, but really love them (Romans 12:9). When has that been a problem for you? How does hospitality develop real love?

How are you regularly fulfilling your ministry—serving other believers? How are you regularly fulfilling your mission—introducing others to Christ? If you are not doing one or both, what are you willing to do about it?

Think about this: Jesus didn't say, "Follow me and I will make sure you get to heaven." He said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." His goal for us is to be actively involved in getting other people there. Reflect and discuss.

Nothing else you do will matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God. If you have experienced that, share your experience and how it mattered.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

INVEST IN PEOPLE: Who did that for you? How did they "build a bridge strong enough to bear the weight of truth"? How were they "salt-seasoning" for you? (Matthew 5:12)

VALUE ALL PEOPLE: Are there people who are hard for you to value enough to invite to your home? If so, why? How strong is your desire to correct people? When does it outweigh your desire to connect? How can you overcome that?

INVITE PEOPLE: Who invited you to a relationship with Christ? How did they make you feel accepted?

The people who have the most influence over us are the people we feel most accepted by. Reflect and discuss.

You weren't placed on earth to do nothing or just live for yourself. God invites you to participate in what He is doing in the world. It's also a command. On a scale of 1-5, how do you think you're doing?

NEXT STEPS

1. Offer yourself for ministry regularly if you aren't already serving.
2. Pray about opening your home for NewPointe@Home. Make sure you are fulfilling your mission.
3. Begin a list of who you will invest in, value, and invite during this new season.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Hospitality is an invitation and a command.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Tuesday: Matthew 4:19

Wednesday: Luke 19:10

Thursday: Acts 16:13-15

Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 2:10

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)