

No. 77 “Follow the Course of Hospitality”

PLEASE NOTE: Apply the material to local circumstances. When discussing the Bible examples, emphasize the lessons we can learn. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

WHY SHOULD WE BE HOSPITABLE? (4 min.)

Hospitable people are welcoming and generous, even toward those they do not know well
God values hospitality, and he expects Christians to be hospitable [Read Romans 12:13] (1Pe 4:9)

He considers hospitality to be a part of our worship (Heb 13:16; w20.03 28 ¶14)

When we are hospitable to others, we make them feel happy and loved (w18.03 14-15 ¶2-3)

Hospitality promotes a warm, loving spirit in the congregation

Being hospitable makes us happy (Ac 20:35)

JEHOVAH SETS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE IN BEING HOSPITABLE (4 min.)

Jehovah generously provides good things to all humans, even to those who do not know him
(Mt 5:45; Ac 14:17; cl 272-273 ¶8-9)

Jehovah is not partial to any race, nationality, or gender

He is especially kind and generous toward those in need (De 10:17, 18)

Jehovah is interested in our well-being, and he invites us to tell him our concerns (Ps 62:8; 145:18)

God sets the perfect example in showing hospitality, and he is pleased when his servants imitate him (Pr 19:17)

LESSONS IN HOSPITALITY FROM THE BIBLE (9 min.)

Abraham ran to welcome strangers and showed hospitality to them (Ge 18:2-8; w12 1/1 9)

He cared for his visitors' needs by having their feet washed and by providing food for them
[Image 1]

Instead of delegating all the work to his wife or to his servants, he took the lead in being hospitable

Jesus generously used his power to benefit others (w15 6/15 4 ¶3-4; 5 ¶8-9)

He helped a newly married couple extend hospitality to their guests (Joh 2:3, 6-10)
[Image 2]

He compassionately cared for the needs of families he did not know (Mt 14:14-21)

Martha and Mary showed hospitality to Jesus, and he became their close friend (Joh 11:5)

Martha learned that while it is important to care for a guest's physical needs, the exchange of spiritual encouragement is more important (Lu 10:39-42; ia 172-175 ¶4-13)

HOW CAN WE BE HOSPITABLE TODAY? (10 min.)

We can be hospitable by inviting others to our home

Hospitality does not need to be elaborate (Pr 15:17; w18.03 16 ¶12) [Image 3]

Our goal should be to encourage, not to impress (Ro 1:11, 12)

Instead of inviting only friends and family, we should also include the poor, the elderly, the shy, and the young (Lu 14:12-14; 2Co 6:13)

When our brothers are in need, we can comfort and assist them (1Jo 3:17; w20.07 24 ¶14)
[Image 4]

We can warmly welcome new ones to our meetings (Ro 15:7; w18.03 15 ¶5; yb16 69 ¶1-2)

We show hospitality by sharing Bible truths with those we do not know

When we do, we refresh them spiritually, just as Jesus did for people in his day (Mt 11:29)

We can welcome those from different cultures and backgrounds (w16.10 10-11 ¶13-17)

Besides being hospitable, we should show gratitude for the hospitality shown to us (1Th 5:18)

We avoid taking advantage of people's hospitality by visiting too often or staying too long
(Pr 25:17)

We strive to be considerate, encouraging guests (w18.03 18 ¶20-21)

SHOWING HOSPITALITY BRINGS BLESSINGS (3 min.)

Continue to look for ways to be hospitable (Pr 3:27; w09 10/15 18 ¶7)

By being hospitable, we benefit both others and ourselves (Pr 11:25)

We may inspire others to be generous and hospitable

We will make new friends and strengthen existing friendships

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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