

1. What would you say is the traditional Western view of hospitality?
2. When Paul said to the church in Rome that they should 'practise hospitality' (Romans 12: 13) was he meaning something akin to that definition or something a bit different?
  - How did the early church practise hospitality? (see Acts 2: 44–47)
  - Is there something we can learn from this today?
3. Who does the Bible say we should show hospitality to?  
(See Hebrews 13: 2 & Romans 12: 13)
  - New Testament Greek word = Xenia means '**Guest-friendship**' and Philoxenia which means '**love of strangers**' (so both people inside and outside the church)
  - Is there someone in your life that you would describe as hospitable?
  - What characteristics do you notice as they serve others? (contrast with 1 Peter 4: 9 & Luke 10: 38-42)
  - In what ways would you like to grow in this area?
4. Discuss the following quote from the author Sam Allberry:

**Biblical hospitality 'is opening up our real lives to others (often and especially the stranger) and inviting them in.**

**You don't technically need a physical space to invite people into.**

**It is as much about doing life with others, wherever and however we happen to do it.**

**Too often in Western culture what we're doing is not hospitality but entertaining.**

**We're putting on a good show. We're showing someone the Instagram version of our home life rather than the actual version of it.**

**A sign that this is the case is that hospitality becomes infrequent and extravagant.'**

- Does this resonate with you? In what ways?
- Why does God call all of us to practise hospitality rather than simply 'entertain' people? (sharing our lives with people not just our belongings)
- What prevents you from welcoming others into your home/ your life?
- How do you feel about 'Messy Hospitality' (which is more or less what the early church excelled at!) e.g. a few dirty dishes in the sink, or washing hanging up....
- What fears or misunderstandings about hospitality keep you from reaching out to others?

5. What should our ultimate motivation for practising hospitality be?  
Meditate on Ephesians 2: 12-13.  
Reflect together on the way that God has offered hospitality to us through Jesus.

**‘We have all been saved by divine hospitality. We were far away from God but have now been brought into his presence, into his very household. God has taken us in and seated us at his table. And he has done all this through the blood of Christ. He was forsaken and left out so that we could be folded in.**

**The sign that we have received this kind of hospitality is that we offer it to others.’**

**The author Sam Allberry**

6. When was the last time you invited someone into your home?
- Is there someone that you’ve been meaning to have over, but have neglected to do so?
  - What other ways can you practise hospitality outside the home?
  - How can we as a growing church deepen our knowledge & love for each other?
  - What can you do this week to reach out to people inside/ outside the church?
7. Spend time praying together about these intentions & thank God for His wonderful, lavish hospitality to us.