

2021

NEIGHBORS

Radically Ordinary Hospitality



Overview

Most often, the things that make the biggest impact in our lives aren't the result of multi-million dollar campaigns or products designed for convenience. They are, however, simple, human acts of welcoming kindness. These small and large gestures communicate to others their god-given value. The best part about this? You don't need a degree or significant capital to change someone's life. In this series, we will be making a plan together for how to help those in our community one hospitable interaction at a time.

Week One

In the first week of this series, we will face head on the southern misconceptions of hospitality, the ways we've regrettably gotten it wrong. Thankfully, one event in the life of Jesus, a master at meeting people where they were, gives us the corrective template we all need. Through the actions of one woman, we will see that genuine empathy is the key to transformative hospitality. We will discover together that hospitality is not a talent we possess, it's a discipline we develop.

Big Idea: On hospitality can be a blindspot and how our misconceptions about strangers lead to loneliness in our community.

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- **Misconception #1:** "They know how I feel based on my actions."
 - **Acts of service are often mistaken for a relationship.**
- **Misconception #2:** "I would know if something was wrong, we are together every day."
 - **It is possible to live next to someone who is dying of loneliness.**
- Jesus' role is not to reinforce the religious but to forgive the forgotten.
- In the kingdom of God service, not status, leads to fulfillment.
- **Allusion of Asymmetric Insights**, which basically means we think we know others better than they know us leads us to trying to solve problems that we have no need in finding solutions to.
- Like Simon, Christians are famously poor at empathizing with strangers.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. What is your definition of being a good neighbor?
2. How would you define the “neighbors” around you? Not just where you live, but in this community.
3. On Sunday, we discussed Radical Hospitality- going a step further to get better at being a good neighbor. What would you say the strengths of this community are? What can we improve in?
4. Read Luke 7:37-48
Most of us have heard this story of the woman, who is never named, and Simon and his guest. Can you list the qualities and characteristics that point to the women being good neighbors?
5. When you read this story, what do you think the women's sin is?
6. While reading this story, who do you identify with the most?
 - a. The sinful woman- whom people didn't know her story but just judged her based off of her past?
 - b. Simon- angry that this sinful person was even around and calling out their sins?
7. It's painful to answer this question honestly either way, so how can we be good neighbors to others by following the example of Jesus?

Resources:

- A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." - Luke 7:37-39(NIV)
- Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. - Luke 7:44-46(NIV)
- Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." - Luke 7:47-48(NIV)