

## Welcome One Another

*1 Peter 4:7-11*

### Introduction

In this day and age when people are so pressed for time, the art of showing hospitality is a rare find. As Christians we are called to welcome one another. During this process we should receive each other with a spirit of openness, warmth, and kindness along with a willingness to be of help to each other.

When we are showing hospitality to each other, we never know if we are entertaining angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2). Not only does a welcoming and hospitable Christian offer a blessing to another, he or she also sets themselves up to be blessed. Hospitality is what God often uses to bring blessing back to us (Ex. 1 Kings 17:7-16 and 2 Kings 4:1-7). Even when we feel that our own burden is too much to carry, we are not excused from the expectation God has for us to share with others. When we choose to trust God and move forward in welcoming others by taking time to care: through open arms, a listening ear, a home-cooked meal, or sharing our lives, we are blessed in the process. Christians should not let their circumstances determine their actions, but should instead rise to the occasion when called upon to demonstrate practical kindness to others.

### Getting Started

1. *Happy Mother's Day! Take a moment to share one thing you cherish about your mother.*
2. *What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?*
3. *When you think of your mom, or maybe an aunt, godmother, or grandmother, how is she an example of a person who shows hospitality? How has she made you feel welcome?*

### Let's Get Personal

1. *Has anyone ever shared with you, even out of their own lack or when they were having personal difficulty?*
2. *What specific circumstances in your life right now seem to make it difficult for you personally to be welcoming to others in your attitude or actions?*
3. *What are some practical ways that we can make people feel welcome and/or show hospitality.*

### Take the Next Step

1. *The widows were each asked to share out of their own area of lack. In what areas of your life do you feel a significant need?*
2. *What is one thing you can do to share with another person in a spirit of openness and hospitality that would bless them in the same way you need to be blessed?*
3. *When people talk to you or work alongside you in the home or at work, do they sense a welcoming or hospitable spirit in you? If so, how do you let people know they are welcome? If you don't, what can you do to change that?*

### Renew Your Mind

***"Offer hospitality to one another..." 1 Peter 4:9***

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