



# HOSPITALITY

Sharing • Relationships • Thankfulness

## Are you feeling ...

A sense of ownership/entitlement?  
An enjoyment from sharing? A need to know who your neighbour is? Supportive?

## WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

Hospitality is about organizing our lives so that there is room for others. It is providing a welcome for those who need a listening ear. It is welcoming people not only to our tables, but into our hearts, and living with open hands. The early church was moved by the Holy Spirit to become hospitable in an extraordinary way. They shared everything they owned and looked out for one another (see Acts 2:42-47). This took discipline, it did not happen overnight and, for some, it was a difficult adjustment (see Acts 5:1-11). A truly hospitable person considers their gifts and blessings and ponders how they can be shared with others. Living with open hands is possible when we recognize that all things come from God (see James 1:17).

The word hospitality comes from two Greek words—love and stranger. Hospitality is love of strangers. God’s Word says, “Show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2 *NIV*). The world tells us that loving strangers seems risky, maybe even a little dangerous, but locks and firewalls cannot do for the soul what companionship and friendship do. The human soul longs for connection.

Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ... I was a stranger and you invited me in ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:35-40 *NIV*).

## WHEN DO I APPLY IT?

You do not need to wait until your home is perfectly ordered or you have extra money in an entertaining budget. There is something every believer can do to practise hospitality. Seek the Holy Spirit’s direction. Look for ways to extend

kindness and share your presence. Get involved in church opportunities, such as hosting a small cell group, driving people to services, providing snacks for events or befriending newcomers. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 as you reflect on this discipline.

## READY TO PRACTISE HOSPITALITY?

1. Consider all God has given you and how you can share with others
2. Consider how God has welcomed you and seek to mirror His actions
3. Carve out time in your schedule for people—family, friends, strangers.

**Want to learn more on hospitality? Download a one-page study guide at [www.SASpiritualLife.ca](http://www.SASpiritualLife.ca)**



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