



Reflection Guide

NOVEMBER 8-21

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Weekend Reflection

FRIDAY, NOV 8 - SUNDAY, NOV 10

This week we talked about the LIGHT of [Biblical] Hospitality- meaning that we open not only our homes, but also our lives and hearts to those around us. This can be both messy and lovely in a very real way.

*"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for by so doing some people have shown
hospitality to angels without knowing it."
(Hebrews 13:2, NIV)*

When I think of hospitality, my initial response is to think of a clean home, a lovely smell, something warm in the oven, and enjoying all of that with close friends. While that can be a part of hospitality, we heard what true biblical hospitality should look like. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and show hospitality to not only our friends but also to those who are different from us. And while that can be scary, it can be so beautiful.

Journal some thoughts:

- ➔ When have you been vulnerable and opened your life to someone who needed to see what biblical hospitality is? How did it impact you?
- ➔ What hinders you from showing hospitality in your daily life?

On a sheet of paper or in your journal, draw a line vertically down the center of the page. On the left, list ways you see **hospitality through the lens of culture**. Examples: Having a spotless house. Having your girlfriends over. Taking a meal to a friend in need.

What are some preconceived notions about hospitality that you might need to remove?

Now on the right, list ways you see **hospitality through the lens of the Bible**. Examples: Being open to share the love of Jesus with a random new friend in Chick-fil-A. Inviting a family over for dinner to love and encourage them in a season of need. Loving and accepting someone who is different from you.

Weekday Reading

MONDAY, NOV 11 - THURSDAY, NOV 14

As we look at hospitality, I think it's important to look at the people we welcome into our lives. Are we only welcoming in people who are the same as we are- who think the same, look the same, believe the same, parent the same, spend the same, act the same, speak the same? OR are we welcoming in the neighbor who is hard to get along with? The mom of the child on your daughter's softball team who looks and talks differently than you? The lonely college student? The man or woman standing on the street corner? The woman who requires a little extra patience to sit with and listen to? The teacher who always seems to be frazzled and never seems to have the time for you? The family member who, well, drives you crazy for a whole number of reasons? Let's look at what Matthew 5:47 has to say:

"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers,

what more are you doing than others?"

(Matthew 5:47, Berean Study Bible)

Think about a time when you have welcomed in someone different from you...

In all honesty, I love having people over to my home, making a yummy meal, and engaging in life-giving conversation and fellowship. But sometimes the thought of inviting someone in who is different can be exhausting. I let the lies creep in. Lies that tell me we won't have anything to talk about. Lies that they don't need me as a friend. Lies that I don't need them. Lies that my house isn't clean enough. Lies that the result won't be worth it.

But every time I have obeyed the prompting of God to invite people in, I have always felt closer to Jesus and closer to the person I allow in. There is something so powerful about welcoming a person in to your life and being able to share Jesus with them. I find if you can share Jesus and a meal with someone it allows them to feel known and welcomed and allows them to open up and be vulnerable back!

Being hospitable is going to be challenging and won't always be convenient, but it is what we are called to do. We are not called to control the result; we are called to invite and welcome. God will use our obedience. Sometimes the hospitality won't be reciprocated and won't be wanted, but it does not fall on us to control that. We can take a sigh of relief! That pressure is off!

Read the following Scriptures about what Biblical hospitality looks like. Choose one a day or read them all at once if you happen to have an unexpected large chunk of time. Or choose one and read it again and again. Remember, this is a *guide* for you to use however it fits your time and needs best. After you read, journal about the Scriptures using the questions that follow as your guide.

- ☐ Psalm 68:4-6a
- ☐ Matthew 5:43-47
- ☐ Romans 12:9-13

- ☐ Hebrews 13:1-3
- ☐ 1 Peter 4:9-11

Journal

- **What STUCK OUT most to you?** This could be something new and challenging or something you need to focus on more.
- **Did any PEOPLE come to mind?** Are there people in your life that you can invest in and show true hospitality to by lending a listening ear, providing a warm meal, showing the unconditional love of Jesus to even if they have different views than you do? Write down their names and come up with a basic plan for *how* to invite them in next time you see them.
- **How are you moved to PRAY today?**

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Weekend Reflection

FRIDAY, NOV 15 – SUNDAY, NOV 17

When the weekend comes, we know a change in routine comes as well. Use the weekend to rest and to enjoy your family and who God is and maybe even catch up on reading any Scriptures you didn't get to during the week.

I encourage you to meditate on 1 Peter 4:9-11 in the Message version:

“Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted.

Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it.

Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry,

a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things

God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words,

let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help.

That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and HE will get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!”

How might God be nudging you to make a sacrifice in order to make room for others?

What are some other things you've learned this week that you hadn't previously considered about hospitality?

Take some time this weekend to share your thoughts about hospitality with friends and family. What are their thoughts? How can they support you in your next step? Perhaps they will choose to join you on this journey of better understanding and living out Biblical hospitality.

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Weekday Reading

MONDAY, NOV 18 - THURSDAY, NOV 21

I love what my friend Vanessa VanNote has to say about hospitality:

Since I am the MomLife Hospitality Coordinator, I wanted to find out what exactly Biblical hospitality was. I came across this quote by Michelle Hershberger:

*'Hospitality in a sense is being willing to see Christ in others.
It's the intentional practice of putting yourself in a situation
to both receive Christ in others and extend Christ's love to others.
It's as much about attitude as it is about food.'*

It's so easy for me to turn into a Martha and be consumed by busyness. I struggle with running the fine line between showing off vs. real hospitality. I have to check myself, check my attitude, and check my heart. I ask myself: 'Am I living in a way that invites or rejects?' Is my busyness causing me to reject someone when all they need is for me to be present and to listen? You see, even simple listening is very much a part of hospitality.

True Biblical hospitality takes some real effort. It takes real effort to not focus on the things that don't matter. And it takes real effort to focus on the things that DO matter.

When I know I have someone coming for coffee, a meal, a chat, whatever the reason... I can feel myself start to work up into a frenzy of HURRY: *hurry* and vacuum, *hurry* and get the dishes done, *hurry* and pick up the backpacks that are sitting on the floor. For me, the hurry causes me to be short with my kids. I tend to be flustered until my pulse calms. What if I could take time to do a once-over look of the house to see if there's one big thing I can do to help make the space feel comfortable... forget the rest... and spend a few moments praying for that friend and our time together before she arrives? Hurry takes away from being present in the moment. I try to also remind myself that my friend is not going to notice the dog hair on the floor, or the few dishes (or piles) left in my sink, and the backpacks on the floor are not going to hinder our visit. What matters is if I am welcoming them with a grateful heart, sharing the love of Jesus, encouraging them towards a deeper relationship with Jesus, and being a listening ear and safe place for them.

Take some time to make a list of ways you can practically fit hospitality into your daily life. I know in each season it will look different. With small children at home you might have the ability to meet a friend in need at Chick-Fil-A and lend a listening ear. When your kids are at school you may have more flexibility and time to meet some physical needs for those around you.

When we look at hospitality, it's also important to look at how Jesus did it:

Jesus made room for everyone, for all types of people—neighbors, the poor, His betrayers, strangers, children, and so many more. It was a mark of His ministry: giving Himself and offering Himself to others and to the Father. Jesus made room because His is a gospel for all people. The apostle Paul writes, 'For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or

free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus' ([Galatians 3:27-28](#), CSB). In the gospel, there is no 'other'—there is only 'us'.

(Raechel Myers, *Making Room: A Study of Biblical Hospitality*).

I love that Jesus made room for everyone! Are we doing the same or are we only making room when it's convenient or when it benefits us? Are we being hospitable and welcoming to others so we can look good to the world around us? Are we watching a friend's child so she will owe us when we are in need? Are we expecting to be invited back?

Take a look at what Rosaria Butterfield says in *The Gospel Comes With a House Key*: "Faith in Jesus foregrounds the trust that says, 'I love my neighbor because she is mine, and not because she loves me back.'"

We do not show hospitality to receive anything in return. We show hospitality purely because God calls us to do so. When you can let go of expectations and just love others, you open the door for God to work in both of your lives.

Use of the following Scriptures on hospitality to meditate on this week. After you read each Scripture, journal your thoughts using the questions that follow as a guide.

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 133:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26:17-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 1:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:25-37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 9:10-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 21:1-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25:35-40 | |

Journal

- **What STUCK OUT most to you when you read these verses?** This could be something new or a reminder of something you've forgotten.
- **Did any QUESTIONS come to mind?** Many of these Scriptures give us a clear picture of the type of hospitality to which God is calling us. Is there anything confusing to you about the way Jesus interacted with others?
- **Get PRACTICAL:** As you process these words and how Jesus was constantly surrounding himself with the lonely and the outcast, how can you acknowledge and welcome in the lonely? Take some time to make a list of ways you can practically fit hospitality into your daily life. I know in each season it will look different. With small children at home you might have the ability to meet a friend in need at a park or your backyard and lend a listening ear while the kids can also play. When your kids are at school you may have more flexibility and time to meet some physical needs for those around you. It's ok to acknowledge that your season, capacity, and your time has limits. But I also want to encourage you that whatever your season, capacity, and time looks like, there are still things that you CAN do.
- **How are you moved to PRAY today?** Take a few moments to pray over opportunities to grow towards more Biblical hospitality. Ask God to give you clarity on specific next steps you can take using what he has

taught you through these verses to build in rhythms of hospitality, which can, in turn, SHINE God's LIGHT to those around you.

Optional Family Activity

Get your kids and/or spouse involved in what you are learning, reading, and reflecting on through MomLife! Each Reflection Guide will include a space like this with ideas and notes for how to read and have discussion/activities with your family around Scripture.

Family Hospitality Roundtable

Gather up your family and decide what will work for your family to show hospitality:

- Invite the moms waiting at the bus stop with you to have cookies on your front porch
- Invite someone to join you for a jog, walk, or hike
- Invite a family to meet you at a park for a picnic and to play

While you work on this project together, have an intentional conversation about hospitality:

- Ask your kids what they think of when they hear the word hospitality? Ask them whose home feels the most welcoming to them and why? Ask them what are some things they can do to be more hospitable?
 - Remind your kids that it's not about entertainment, but instead about your attitude.
 - Talk with your kids about the fact that God gave each of us different strengths and we won't all show hospitality in the same way, but that we can all keep Jesus at the center. One friend might be really good at making a delicious meal and welcoming people. Another friend might be really good at planning outings. Another may be great at meeting physical needs for others. We are all needed in the body of Christ and one is not better than the other. Do what God has called you to do without comparison.
 - Talk with your children about the kind of hospitality Jesus showed. Pick out a few of the hospitality Scriptures that were meaningful to you from the last two weeks to read with your children.
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Additional Resources [links also found @ graceclarksville.com/momlife-resources/]:

Books:

- [The Gospel Comes with a House Key](#) by Rosaria Butterfield
- [The Ministry of Ordinary Places](#) by Shannan Martin

Tools:

- [Simplified Planner](#)

Bible Studies:

- [Making Room: A Study of Biblical Hospitality](#) (read online, [BUY a copy of the book](#), or download the [She Reads Truth app](#) and pay \$1.99 to unlock this study.

Podcasts:

- [Lazy Genius](#)
- [Lisa Whittle - Jesus Over Everything- "Respond to Needs"](#)
- [Christy Nockels "Home is us if Christ is in us"](#)