



FLOURISH COMMUNITIES

Hospitality

Spiritual disciplines provide meaningful ways for you to abide in God and be transformed by Him.

“Hospitality means receiving the other, from the heart, into my own dwelling place. It entails providing for the need, comfort, and delight of the other with all the openness, respect, freedom, tenderness, and joy that love itself embodies.”¹

Hospitality is an expression of love, inviting the guest into the very best of who we are and what we have.

How can you arrange your life to develop hospitality into a regular rhythm?

Hospitality

“Hospitality is to be a safe person who offers others the grace, shelter, and presence of Jesus.”² Hospitality can be offered in many of our spheres of influence: our home, our workplace, our neighborhoods, and our city. What sphere of influence do you sense God inviting you to intentionally explore? Where is God inviting you to offer hospitality in a new or different way? What rhythm of hospitality can you establish for yourself?

What is your best first step? Create some experiments and give yourself a date for completion. Note the movement of the Holy Spirit as He extends His welcome through you.

Home – extending forgiveness more quickly to friends and family, playing together more, making meal-time special, resolving conflict sooner, honoring the private space of different family members, welcoming strangers into my home

I will offer hospitality in my home in this way:

I can do this by:

Work – make your workspace more welcoming to others, make access to you easier to obtain, eat meals or take coffee breaks with co-workers, invite outsiders into your group, celebrate co-workers, transform an adversary into a friend.

I will offer hospitality at work in this way:

I can do this by:

Neighborhood – be where your neighbors are, listen for needs and meet them. Sit outside your home and wave to neighbors. Share food, throw a party, create a neighborhood “library” table to swap books, offer tools or expertise. Position yourself to be present and available. Walk around your neighborhood every day at the same time and pray for each apartment or home. Volunteer at a neighborhood school or public library.

I will offer hospitality in my neighborhood in this way:

I can do this by:

City – pray for your city officials and write them a personal note, clean a neighborhood park, run for office, volunteer on a commission, serve on a Board of Directors, coach a little league team, serve on an area homeowners’ association, run a mini-food drive for your local food pantry. Make phone calls to assist an organization’s fundraising efforts. Find an organization who offers hospitality to your city and see how you could assist, using your skills and talents.

I will offer hospitality in my city in this way:

I can do this by:

Ideas taken from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*,² by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun and
*Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*¹, by Marjorie J. Thompson

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