



Radical Hospitality

Lesson 1

Father Abraham



Focus Text

1 Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. **2** So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, **3** and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. **4** Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. **5** And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant. They said, “Do as you have said.” **6** So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.” **7** And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. **8** So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. **Genesis 18:1–8.**



Target Objective

In lesson 1, we will dive into the life of Abraham to understand the foundational role that hospitality should play in the lives of God’s covenant people. We will see how God’s desire for us to honor and serve others is an act of faith and obedience that reflects His character.



Lesson 1 *Growth Work*

Group Discussion:

In this lesson, we defined radical as "going to the root or origin; fundamental," and also as "extreme, especially as regards change from accepted or traditional forms." In Old Testament times, and still for many Jews today, hospitality was seen as a fundamental part of living righteously—a way of life that went to the very root of what it meant to honor God and care for others.

- Looking back on your own life, have you ever thought of hospitality as a fundamental part of God's plan for His people?
- How important does hospitality seem to be in the church today? Do you think it still holds a "radical" place in the way we live out our faith?
- How does the story of Abraham and other Old Testament teachings on hospitality shape our understanding of hospitality as an expression of our faith?

Personal Practice:

- **Spontaneous Hospitality.** This week, pray for an opportunity to radically welcome an unexpected guest in your home, workspace, or church. Model Abraham's readiness to serve, offering them something to eat, your unexpected help or assistance, or with a church visitor, an invitation to go to lunch.
- **Seek to Show Hospitality.** Pray that God would direct you to someone at work, church, or in your neighborhood that you could extend hospitality to. Consider how you could serve them and make plans to act. This service could be as simple as a conversation, some baked goods, or an invitation to a gathering.
- **Hospitality Inventory.** Take note of your interactions this week. Did you go out of your way to make someone feel honored and valued? Reflect on or journal about one or two encounters and how you could improve.