

DISCUSSION:

Discuss the question cluster below

(As much or as little as works for your group and in any order you like)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're starting a new sermon series called, "Hospitality: A life of Welcome." In it we're looking what real Christian hospitality is supposed to be all about. It turns out, it's not quite what we think. We're going to look at four topics to help us discover what biblical hospitality is really about and to see how we lean into it. Those topics are: 1) Defining Hospitality; 2) The Need for it; 3) The Power of it; 4) The Extent of it.

I. This week, we looked at Isaiah 58:1-12 and the concept of hospitality as addressing the *fasting of others* – leaning into the areas of life where they are going without. We learned that God calls us to be hospitality *residents* in the lives of others, not just *tourists* (who join for the fun parts and avoid the hard things). That means we invest, we get involved and we share with others, which is exactly what Jesus did for us, and when we become hospitality residents, addressing the fasting of others, that's when we actually find God meeting us in the all the ways we are fasting and going without. It's only *together* that we have our needs meet. Let's discuss what this means for our lives

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. When has someone felt like a 'resident' in your life? When has someone felt like a tourist?
 - 1. *What was meaningful to you about how that person who was a 'resident' interacted with you (or did they do for you)?*
 - 2. *What was disappointing or hurtful about how someone related to you more like a 'tourist' (checking out when things got hard)?*
 - 3. *How does it impact your perspective on God to know that Jesus became a resident in your life – that he was, is and always will be, in it for the hard stuff too?*
- C. What's an area of fasting in someone's life around you that you feel drawn to address?
 - 1. *What about what they're lacking or going without weighs on your heart?*
 - 2. *How might you be tempted to just move right to acting without learning, praying and seeking God in how you could be a 'resident' in their lives for this problem?*
 - 3. *How might you approach their problem differently knowing that God uses our caring for others to actually minister to us? How might you view this person differently if you know that God will use them to help you?*