

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 Leviticus 19:33-34 and Matthew 7:12 to help us see further aspects of the *need* of hospitality. We learned that God's charge to us in hospitality is to show it even to outsiders and new-comers, to those who don't belong. And we're to welcome them as if they've been one of us from the beginning – even as if they are our very selves. And we're to do that because welcoming them is welcoming ourselves, since we have been or will be outsiders at some point. It's also important because if we don't treat them like we would treat ourselves, we're becoming more like those we hate when we are the outsider: people who walk right by us, use us or hurt us. But ultimately, this is important because this is how God has welcomed us. And thankfully his welcome gives us the power to welcome like he has welcomed us. Let's discuss what this means for our lives.**

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. Talk about a time someone showed you welcome when you were an 'outsider'. What was meaningful about it?
- C. Who are some 'outsiders' in your life right now? (I.e., people you don't know, but you see and maybe even interact with at some level. It could be certain people or certain kinds of people)
- D. How does it change the way you feel about showing welcome to 'outsiders' if you think about welcoming them as welcoming yourself?
 1. *What might you do more of with the 'outsiders' you mentioned above if you were trying to welcome yourself? What would you do less of?*
- E. Where is welcoming 'outsiders' hard for you?
 1. *How do you need God to show you more of how he's in this with you and that you're welcome with him, even now?*