

Life Group Discussion Guide

BEYOND YOUR FAMILY
1 Peter 4:8-10
Stuart Jones - June 18, 2017



The Family
Table

INTRODUCTION

The table is still the place where we bring uncommon people together. God uses the home and our table to bring different backgrounds together. We are all about inviting people to church, but what about inviting people into our homes? Around the dinner table walls come down. This is the beauty of hospitality.

Hospitality doesn't require a table. You and I can practice hospitality every day. Hold the door open for a stranger. Allow a senior adult to move ahead of you in line. Help a senior up a flight of stairs by walking alongside and gently holding his or her arm. Assist someone in the parking lot by loading groceries into their car trunk. Buy coffee for the person in front of you in line by announcing to the cashier, "I've got her order covered." Ask a mom struggling with multiple children, "Is there anything I can do to help?"

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Excluding your home and the homes of immediate family, in whose home do you feel most comfortable? Why?
2. How do you react to someone who shows you kindness? Do you resist? Do you accept? Do you resist at first, then hesitantly accept?

EVALUATE IT

1. Read Acts 2:46-47. What word best describes the atmosphere in these verses? Why did you choose that particular word?
2. Read the first part of verse 47 again. What made this around-the-table early church so appealing to outsiders? What's the closest you've come to experiencing this kind of community?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8-10. Stuart said, "But it's not that love ignores or hides sin, but love washes over sin and cares about those who are eaten up by sin." How do we do this? How do we carry out Peter's instructions and remain faithful to God's truth?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Do you ever allow perfection to trump hospitality? Why or why not? What can you do to allow hospitality to trump perfection?
2. Answer the questions Stuart asked in his sermon, "God has gifted you, built you with certain talents and abilities that you are meant to use to serve others. Are you doing that? Are you modeling that for your household? Is your family participating in serving within your own home or family time?"

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Long before the church had pulpits and baptisteries, she had kitchens and dinner tables.

- Max Lucado, Life to the Full

Not everyone can serve in a foreign land, lead a relief effort, or volunteer at the downtown soup kitchen. But who can't be hospitable? Do you have a front door? A table? Chairs? Bread and meat for sandwiches? Congratulations! You just qualified to serve in the most ancient of ministries: hospitality. . . Something holy happens around a dinner table that will never happen in a sanctuary. In a church auditorium you see the backs of heads. Around the table you see the expressions on faces. In the auditorium one person speaks; around the table everyone has a voice.

- Max Lucado, Outlive Your Life



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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