



Introduction

We're continuing in a series called *Reset*. Our world is reopening, regathering, and we're adjusting to what's being called the new normal. So, we're seeing how the Bible can give us wisdom as we navigate this time together. Specifically, we're reading through Romans 12. In this fourth lesson, we learn that we should overflow with hospitality.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. How hospitable are you? Are you more inclined to think about other people as much as or more than yourself, or vice versa?

Hear God's Story

2. Read Romans 12:13. Then answer: ...Why?
3. A foundational part of showing genuine hospitality is remembering the kind of love that God has for people. From a deepening awareness of God's love for us, we're better able to show love to each other.
 - a. Read Psalm 36:5-7; Ephesians 3:14-19; and 1 John 4:9-12.
 - b. What can we learn in these passages about God's heart?
 - c. What new perspective can we learn from reading passages like these?
 - d. What challenges you the most about all of this?
4. The latter part of Romans 12:13 encourages us to "seek" or "practice" hospitality. It's an ongoing thing we need to work at like an athlete practicing their form. Yet, there are barriers we have to overcome to keep maturing. Read the below examples of common barriers that were mentioned in the sermon, then answer:
What's your main barrier that causes you to struggle with being hospitable?

Hospitality Barriers: *I'm too exhausted. It's not how I was raised. I'm protecting myself. I'm just lazy. I'm more focused on myself.*

Create a New Story

5. This week, ask God to help you have a passion for hospitality. What would that look like for you in practice?
6. Resist one of your "hospitality barriers" this week. What's the one you're going to work on, and then report back to your group about the next time you meet?

Further Studies: Contemplative Prayer Exercise

In this exercise we're going to do a contemplative prayer together. With your eyes closed, your facilitator will read each prompt giving a moment of silence after each (suggested: 30 seconds to 1 minute). Afterward, move onto the questions below.

- a. Take a moment to acknowledge those thoughts that are preventing you from being fully present right now, and put them on the side. Relax your mind, your body, and take a deep breath. Focus on being fully present in God's presence now.
- b. Now, imagine God's sitting with you. He knows you better than you know yourself, and He loves you with perfect love. Know you're seen, accepted, and loved.
- c. Ask God to bring to your mind those areas in your life that would benefit from you modeling God's perfect love for us.
- d. Ask God now to use you in the coming days to be an ambassador of His heart to others. Pray for Him to give you His wisdom, and His heart, and to guide your words and actions so you can better live with a spirit of hospitality that shows others He loves them.
- e. Give God thanks now: For His perfect love for all of us, and that He wants to partner with us to spread His message of hope and healing in a hurting world.
- f. (At this point the facilitator closes this time out with a short prayer out loud.)

Discuss

1. What was that like for you?
2. Did God reveal anything to you during that time?
3. What are the next steps you're going to take this week to grow in a spirit of hospitality?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

4. For those who have young children at home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com