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A SEMINAR STUDY OF BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY



Begin with prayer for it is only with God's help that we can develop this kind of ministry in our churches.

Introduction

Biblical Hospitality is based on Bible texts as examples as seen in the following philosophy:

By faith we know that we are pilgrims living as strangers in a foreign land, desiring a heavenly country whose founder is God. We believe that we can help pilgrims progress toward heaven by giving of ourselves through a hospitable life-style.

Therefore as members of HOME OUTREACH FOR PILGRIMS' ENCOURAGEMENT (H.O.P.E.):

1. We believe that God gives us the gift of hospitality and we pray for opportunities to use hospitality effectively.
2. We believe that the Bible is our primary guide in teaching us how to use hospitality effectively.
3. We believe that it is our Christian privilege and responsibility to continually break bread together and to be partakers of the Lord's Supper in communion with our Church Family.
4. We believe that we can create a friendly atmosphere by welcoming and receiving pilgrims in peace. By encouraging them to share meals, worship, and fellowship in our homes we hope that those who are touched by our lives may be refreshed physically and spiritually.
5. We believe that we can encourage each other to develop the gift of hospitality which can be nurtured so that we will be equipped to serve others.

Note: H.O.P.E. Ministry Philosophy is based on scripture.





See Acts 2:42 and Ephesians 4:12.

“teaching...fellowship...breaking bread...prayer” (Acts 2:42)

“...equipping the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body...”
(Ephesians 4:12)

This philosophy was developed by Beltsville, Maryland Church members.

In this course we will explore many other texts and look at Bible examples of hospitality. These ideas came from a dedicated group of church members at Beltsville, Maryland and used to make our own church more hospitable to new members, guests, as well as long time members. We asked God to help us develop a plan and so He did!

You will be provided with many handouts that will be of help to you in developing this hospitality ministry in your church. This is a ministry that can be practiced by both women and men and is encouraged to be developed to utilize the skills of both. By practicing Biblical Hospitality, God opens the doors to you of a very innovative and creative kind of hospitality practiced in very simple ways to bind up wounds of hurt hearts, bring together and establish active members in your church.

You will go through a typical weekend of meetings in this seminar that will prepare you to begin a ministry that will help new members as well as long time members to be established and knit together to reach out to our relatives, neighbors and friends and share hospitality with them. You may not have a whole weekend so you can pick and choose the things you will need to use.

Each handout will be on a separate page for you to make copies of. Some will be for information to take home (as there will not be enough time in this seminar to go through each one). By providing you with these additional materials you will be able to develop the skills needed in your practice of Biblical Hospitality.

This is a course on the study of Biblical Hospitality which explores the ideas presented in the Bible by the example given by many people. Some hospitality is very simple, such as sharing a cup of water. Some examples are very elaborate, such as Abraham's feast for his three visitors. Some kinds of hospitality are given to enemies, such as Jael's dinner for Israel's enemy general. By studying Biblical Hospitality we are given the tools to help in all our areas of ministry in the church and also our ministry to our families, our workplace and neighborhood. It gives us a good look at how God shares hospitality with us and how we can use this kind of hospitality where ever we are and whom ever we are with. This course is just the beginning of a life long education that hopefully your listeners will be inspired to study further. By doing continued study each person will find ways to develop their own particular hospitality perspective and color their ministry of hospitality with their God-given talents and gifts.



THE HOSPITALITY INVENTORY OF YOU AND YOUR CHURCH



ENTRANCE INVENTORY

DEFINITION OF HOSPITALITY:

Let's find you what you know about hospitality by filling out this Entrance Inventory of you and your church. How do you define the word HOSPITALITY? Please write that down.





It's good to look at the positive things we are doing now in our own church. What kinds of strengths does your church have now? Maybe you have regular fellowship dinners on Sabbath after the sermon. Or perhaps you have other special fellowship groups that study together or meet to get acquainted. Write those down as well as any others you can think of.

What needs do you see now that your church has. These may be things that you feel may be lacking in your church now. Write those down. If you can't think of anything just leave that part blank. Save these. We will come back to an Exit Inventory at the end of this seminar. Then you can compare your notes.