

**Week 31**  
**Hospitality**

*“You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”-Lev 19:34*

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” - Matt 25:35*

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” - Rev 3:20*

The gospel of the good news of God is best expressed by welcoming others to our table. We share food, drink, and conversation and are united through the gift of God’s blessing of a harvest. God has opened his house and welcomes us at his table. Each Sunday we gather around that table to share a meal with God. Through that sharing, we declare that all who partake of the bread and the cup are our brothers and sisters. We are welcome guests at the table of the Lord. Sharing the table of the Lord is one way to understand the good news of the kingdom. An opportunity to enjoy food with friends is good news!

Jesus never seemed to miss an opportunity to eat with anyone who invited him in. In fact, he was so unscrupulous about his dinner companions that many of the religious people criticized him. They thought he should be more discriminating about his food friends. Their criticism indicates that they understood that eating with someone means something; it means we consider one another friends and equals.

Just as God sent Jesus into the world to welcome and share table with all kinds of people, God also sends us into the world. When we share table with others, we extend the invitation of God to be called friends. What a wonderful way to participate in the kingdom of God! God provides the food and we get to enjoy eating and sharing life with others.

The practice of hospitality is a spiritual discipline because in our busy lives it is too easy to neglect it. Welcome the stranger, share table, become friends, and together rejoice in the blessings of God.

***This Week***

- Pray for opportunities to share hospitality with someone. Make plans to invite a neighbor, a classmate, or a coworker to share a meal.

**Week 31**

**Aug 1-7**

<b>Sun</b>	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			<b>1</b>
	<b>Ezra / Nehemiah (5)</b>			
<b>Mon</b>	2Sam 1,2	Matt 21	Psa 130	<b>2</b>
<b>Tue</b>	2Sam 3,4	Matt 22	Psa 131	<b>3</b>
<b>Wed</b>	2Sam 5,6	Matt 23	Psa 132	<b>4</b>
<b>Thr</b>	2Sam 7,8,9	Matt 24	Psa 133,134	<b>5</b>
<b>Fri</b>	2Sam 10,11	Matt 25	Psa 135	<b>6</b>
<b>Sat</b>				<b>7</b>