

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF HOSPITALITY



What does scripture say about Hospitality?

- Leviticus 19:34: "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."
- Romans 12:13: "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."
- 1 Peter 4:9: "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."
- Hebrews 13:2: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

What are the surprising benefits of a hospitable life?

We don't want to spoil the surprise! Open the book *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* from your resource bag and open to page 155. You will see the research data connected to families who practice hospitality regularly. It is remarkable!

Discuss ways your family practices hospitality. Here are a few examples:

- We volunteer at church to welcome people.
- We welcome new people into our neighborhood.
- We share meals with or cook meals for other families.

This month's spiritual practice and service project:

Your family project is to offer hospitality to a "stranger." Consider inviting people who are not yet close friends into your home. Ask your children to help you decide who. Use the hospitality checklist in your curriculum. The family discussion time is just as important as the preparation and hosting of hospitality.

If you have older children, read or talk about the story of the Road to Emmaus found in Luke 24. When Jesus enters the home as a guest, he becomes the host as he breaks the bread. St. Benedict reminds us to welcome each guest as if they were Jesus.

Discuss these questions after your hospitality experiment:

- In what ways did your guests represent Jesus?
- Did you see someone in your family act like Jesus as they listened to and served your guests?
- Like the disciples in Luke 24, was there a time that you recognized Christ was sitting among you during your time together?
- How could this experience change the way you practice hospitality in the future?