

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Hospitality

*September 21 & 22, 2019*

The word hospitality is defined as “the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.” Biblically, God’s people are called to provide hospitality to the stranger or guest because the Israelites were once strangers in Egypt. Providing an open and gracious welcome is healing to the soul. We are called to open our lives to others, as Christ has graciously received us.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 10:12-22

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

The concept of hospitality is critically important for understanding our mission in the world. The Hebrew people, the Israelites, were called to show hospitality to others because hospitality had been shown to them by a God who went to extravagant lengths to show hospitality. They were to welcome others; strangers, foreigners, even the outcast because they had been strangers, foreigners and outcasts. They were to show hospitality by caring for the poor, providing support for the widow and creating a home for the orphan because at one time or another they had been poor, widowed and orphaned.

The God of the Israelites was different than all of the other gods; Yahweh was kind, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Yahweh was forgiving, constantly growing the faithful community by welcoming the stranger, embracing the poor, redeeming the lost, and breathing life into all that was dying. In Deuteronomy we find a “blue print” for life together, a set of “building plans” for the community of faith moving into the future, a vision and mission for how we’re going to get there. We ultimately thrive as the people of God by nurturing healthy relationships, practicing intentional acts of kindness, and showing hospitality as ways of creating trust and building respect which sustains community.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does hospitality look like, and what effect does it have?
- Can you describe a truly hospitable experience?
- When have you been shown hospitality? What difference did it make?
- How do keeping the commandments of the LORD provide for our own well-being?

**APPLICATION:** This week, consider Pastor Paul’s challenge to lean into hospitality. Next time you are at church, or another space that you frequent, extend a hand and introduce yourself to someone new.