

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

LOVE THE STRANGER



OVERFLOW - WEEK 6

HEBREWS 13:1-2
GENESIS 18:1-8

WELCOME TO LIFE GROUP

This Fall, we are focusing on our values of Experiencing God and Loving Others through our sermon series, OVERFLOW.

This week, we explored what it means to love the strangers around us and among us - what the Bible often calls “Hospitality.”

Throughout the Bible, God’s people are called to treat strangers differently than the rest of the world - not to oppress or avoid them, not merely to tolerate or permit them, but to LOVE them, because God loved us when we were strangers.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.



What idea from the sermon stuck out to you most this week?



What questions do you have that were either raised or left unanswered by the sermon?



How have you thought about hospitality in the past? As a core part of Christian love? An optional expression of friendliness? Something else?

What is the difference between hospitality and “entertaining?” Have you ever been discouraged from showing hospitality because of a wrong expectation for what it should look like?

Who is the most hospitable person you've ever known? What was it about them that made their hospitality remarkable?



Are you ever tempted to settle for superficial “friendliness” instead of showing genuine hospitality? If so, how does that look for you?

What fears or anxiety do you have when it comes to loving strangers?

Have you ever considered the gospel as God's perfect example of hospitality? How does seeing yourself as a stranger who God loved change your heart toward strangers?



What is one way you can grow in showing hospitality in your home? What do you need to start doing, stop doing, or continue doing to grow in love for the stranger?

GROUP APPLICATION - Life Group is a great place show hospitality to others... if we are intentional about us. Discuss with your group what barriers exist for you to be more hospitable to strangers, and how you can proactively move past those barriers to love strangers well in Life Group.

CLOSING PRAYER

Revisit some of the verses you identified back in Week 2 that remind you of God's love for you. As you read or think about those Scriptures, how do you sense the Spirit inviting you to grow in love for the strangers around you?

Take some time to thank God again for his amazing love for you and ask God to grow you as a person of Christ-like love for strangers.

HEBREWS 13:1-2

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.

GENESIS 18:1-8

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day.

² He looked up, and he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, bowed to the ground, ³ and said, "My lord, if I have found favor with you, please do not go on past your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ I will bring a bit of bread so that you may strengthen yourselves. This is why you have passed your servant's way. Later, you can continue on."

"Yes," they replied, "do as you have said."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Knead three measures of fine flour and make bread." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and got a tender, choice calf. He gave it to a young man, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ Then Abraham took curds and milk, as well as the calf that he had prepared, and set them before the men. He served them as they ate under the tree.