

LifeGroup Questions

November 4, 2018

Hospitality Without Grumbling, 1 Peter 4:9

1. Let's begin with sharing by the group how they experience the word *hospitality*.

The Greek word used for hospitality in this verse is *philoxenos* (*fil ox' en os*); it refers to a "fondness for strangers" (Strong's #5382).

2. Make a list of how you display fondness
3. Describe the kind of person that comes to mind when you hear the word *stranger*.
4. Look at your list for fondness alongside your description for stranger; talk about how you feel being told to behave with fondness towards strangers.

Here is how 1 Peter 4:9 reads in The Passion Translation (TPT)

Be compassionate to foreigners without complaining.

The footnote to this verse says: As translated from the Aramaic and implied in the Greek, which can also be translated "Show hospitality to the stranger."

By the time Jesus came ashore, a massive crowd was waiting. At the sight of them, his heart was filled with compassion, because they seemed like wandering sheep who had no shepherd. So he taught them many things. Mark 6:34 (TPT)

In Aramaic the word compassion indicates Jesus felt "nurturing love toward them."

5. Discuss how the use of the word compassion changes the way the way you read 1 Peter 4:9.
6. Read Mark 6:31-40. Using the information above, list the ways Jesus showed hospitality to the crowd.

7. As you consider the following list; take some quiet time and ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you might be resistant to Peter's directive. Share your thoughts with the group (as much as you feel safe about sharing):

- Welcome people when you're tired.
- Welcome people when you're inconvenienced.
- Welcome people as a way of right-sizing your own ego.
- Welcome the ones you don't trust, don't like, don't value.
- And don't just welcome them with...politeness. Learn to welcome people all the way through or as Peter would later write, love deeply from the heart.
- Recognize that even when you get the welcome right, people on the receiving end of God's grace might not appreciate it... but don't let that stop you from heading into the will of God. Don't let your welcome ride on their response.

(from The Gospel of Welcome by Carolyn Moore)

Read the following definition of "missional" and discuss the last question:

"Missional church is a community of God's people that defines itself, and organizes its life around, its real purpose of being an agent of God's mission to the world. In other words, the church's true and authentic organizing principle is mission. When the church is in mission, it is the true church."

8. How can we employ hospitality as a missional resource globally and locally?