

First Encounter #4

Hospitality

Word

Scripture Reference

Acts 16:11-15; 25-34, 40

Discussion Questions

1. Hospitality can be defined as the “generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests.” Why do you think hospitality is important?
2. Acts 16 teaches us three important things about hospitality that we need to know as followers of Jesus Christ. Read verses 11-15. Here we see a woman named Lydia who got baptized after hearing Paul’s message in Philippi. What is the significance of getting baptized? Describe what Lydia did after she and her household were baptized (v. 15). What do you think was Lydia’s motivation for her actions?
3. The first thing we need to understand about showing hospitality is that it is an expression of thankfulness for a life that is transformed. What area of your life has God greatly transformed and for which you feel extremely grateful about? How have you been expressing thankfulness for God’s transforming work in your life?
4. Read verses 25-34. In this passage we find that Paul and Silas were in prison, singing hymns and praying, when an earthquake shook the prison doors open and loosened the chains binding the prisoners. Describe what happened after that. How did Paul and Silas’ actions impact the prison keeper? As a Christian, how have your actions been inviting people to ask about the Jesus Christ you worship?
5. The second thing that followers of Christ need to understand about hospitality is that it is expressed in action. Describe how the prison keeper and his family took care of Paul and Silas that night.
6. Share an instance where you felt you were able to express hospitality in the best way you know how. What could possibly hinder you from

showing it? Discuss what you think are actions that are not necessarily a tangible way of showing hospitality but are often associated with being hospitable.

7. Read Acts 16:40. At this time Paul and Silas were just released from prison and probably now labeled as ex-convicts. How did Lydia treat them?
8. The third thing we need to know about hospitality is that it is expressed equally to all. As a Christian, what do you think is the value of being able to show hospitality equally? Is there someone to whom you find difficult to show hospitality? Why? Share with the group and discuss how you can improve in this area of your Christian testimony.

Walk

Showing hospitality is ingrained in our Filipino-Chinese culture. What can you say about the way it is practiced or expressed? How can you practically use this aspect of our culture to extend the love of Christ to those in your circle of influence?

Worship & Prayer

Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony

Pray for...

- Christians to practice biblical hospitality to bless others in Jesus’ Name.
- Wisdom for RELAX retreat speakers to prepare divinely inspired messages.
- Blessings upon Min. Joy Lao and the ongoing China mission trip.
- Grace and healing for Ang Chu Lan. Cancer patients: Ver Garrido LG, FW, Segundo Yu, Anabelle Uytengsu.
- Spiritual healing for Mr. Lim.
- God’s peace to protect the Sitjar family and wisdom for necessary preparations.