

OFF THE Shelf

TALK IT OVER

Hospitality

Off the Shelf - Week 3

Speaker: David Nasser

July 25-26, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Peter 4:8-9

Questions

1. Think about a time when you were new or felt like an outsider (i.e. in a group, neighborhood, workplace, school, or church) and someone made you feel safe, welcomed, or valued? How has that experience affected the way you think about welcoming others today?
2. What does it mean to be hospitable? Would you describe yourself as hospitable to others? Why or why not?
3. The Greek word for hospitality, *philoxenia*, combines *philos* ("love" or "friend") and *xenos* ("stranger" or "foreigner") which means "loving the outsider." The sermon also defined hospitality as "making room for the stranger" (Henri Nouwen) and "the practice of turning strangers into guests" (Tim Keller) even those who don't see eye to eye with us politically, culturally, or theologically. How is this biblical idea of hospitality different from hosting people with whom we are already comfortable?
4. The sermon outlined three expressions of hospitality: hospitality for us — reconciled with God (salvation), hospitality with us — reconciled to one another (fellowship), and hospitality through us — reconciled for the other (mission). How does hospitality represent what God has done for us? How is it a practical approach to love one another and show people the way to Jesus?

5. Romans 12:13 (ESV) says, “*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*” Other translations include “*Always be eager to practice hospitality*” (NLT), “*Practice hospitality*” (NIV), “*Given to hospitality*” (KJV), and “*Be inventive in hospitality*” (The Message). What phrasing speaks to you most strongly? We often think of hospitality as a soft skill, but why does God command it? What does this say about God’s expectations of us when it comes to hospitality inside and outside God’s family?
6. 1 Timothy 3:2 (ESV) says, “*Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*” Why do you think someone leading a church must be hospitable alongside qualities like integrity, self-discipline, or respect? How is hospitality a sign of spiritual maturity?
7. 1 Peter 4:8–9 (ESV) says, “*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*” What does it mean to love and be hospitable to others “without grumbling”? Where in your life do you have a grumbling posture? How did Jesus model hospitality and love in his ministry and on the cross for those hostile to him?
8. What are different approaches to showing hospitality today? What attitudes or fears keep you from being hospitable to those different from you? Who is God calling you to show hospitality to this week? How can you and your family become more intentional about it in your school, workplace, or community?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.