

Practicing Hospitality as the Sons and Daughters of God the Homemaker

If our God is the great homemaker (Genesis 1–3; Isaiah 14:19–23; John 14:1–3; Hebrews 11:6–16; Revelation 21:1–22:5) . . .

and if we who were once strangers to God are now by adoption his sons and daughters (Romans 8:14–30; Galatians 4:1–7) . . .

then we can and must make home for others (Deuteronomy 10:17–19; Romans 12:9–13; Hebrews 13:1–3; 1 Peter 4:8–9).

To practice hospitality is to make home for strangers.

Want to Read More?

Some recommended reading on God as homemaker, the theology of adoption, and various aspects of hospitality:

- Tamar Adler, *An Everlasting Meal: Cooking with Economy and Grace*
- Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*
- Andy Crouch, *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*
- Andy Crouch, *Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power*
- Dan Cruver, “How We Must Talk About Adoption” (<http://www.togetherforadoption.org/?p=17393>)
- Dan Cruver, ed., *Reclaiming Adoption: Missional Living Through the Rediscovery of Abba Father*
- Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God*
- Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice*
- Kathleen Norris, *The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy and “Women’s Work”*
- Margaret Kim Peterson, *Keeping House: The Litany of Everyday Life*
- John Piper, “Strategic Hospitality” (www.desiringgod.org/messages/strategic-hospitality)
- Noel Piper, *Treasuring God in Our Traditions*
- Christie Purifoy, *Roots and Sky*
- Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*
- J. Stephen Yuille, *A Hope Deferred: Adoption and the Fatherhood of God*

Our Practice of Hospitality: Questions, Conversation

1. How does the theology of home affect our attention to and care for those around us?
2. How does one practice hospitality in a small home, in an apartment, in a large home, at a church, at someone else's home, at a shelter, at a workplace, at an institution? How does one prepare to practice hospitality for an afternoon, an overnight stay, an unspecified long period of time? How do these preparations look alike and different for individuals, small families, large families, church communities, civic communities, nonprofits?
3. How might you practice home with or for others like . . .
 - Those outside your peer group in the local church
 - Elderly persons
 - Chronically or terminally ill persons
 - Annoying extended family
 - Children in the local church at various ages, whether babies, toddlers, elementary, middle school, or high school
 - Children both inside and outside of the church who come from hard places
 - Orphans, birth parents who have placed children for adoption, foster children, persons affected by abortion in some way
 - Men, women, or children who have experienced physical, verbal, emotional, and/or sexual abuse
 - Persons who have abused others, whether personally or indirectly by participating in systemic oppression
 - Persons identifying as LGBTQ
 - Persons whose language you do not speak
 - Persons with a different cultural background from you
 - Persons more or less educated than you
 - Persons more or less wealthy than you
 - College students
 - Single parents and single persons without children
 - People professing different faiths or none at all
 - Widows and widowers
 - Neighbors on your home street
 - Strangers in your city with whom you might have some point of connection
 - Homeless persons
 - Persons in your city suffering from addiction
 - Persons in your city who cannot seem to access safe housing, living wages, enriching education, affordable childcare, fair loans, nutritious food
 - Persons who deliberately manipulate other individuals or systems for their personal benefit
4. How might seasons of life or individual giftedness affect your practice of hospitality?
5. What about your culture (your place, time, class, etc) helps you make home? What about your culture hinders you from making home?
6. How might you foster a stronger culture of hospitality in your home, your community, and your church?