

CALLED OUT To Welcome In

Pastor Nathan Carroll

"Hospitality... is the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."

~ Henri Nouwen (from Reaching Out)

Hospitality _____ for transformational growth because transformation only happens in the _____.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV

Hospitality is NOT _____.

Hospitality IS engaging others through various means which

- _____
- _____
- _____

Hospitality is given 3 general expressions in the book of Acts:

1. Hospitality _____
This is the _____ for developing a _____ of hospitality
 - Lydia (Acts 16)
 - Jason (Acts 17)
2. Hospitality through _____
 - Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18)
3. Hospitality through _____
 - Paul and Publius (Acts 28)

The Last Word in the book of Acts:

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him....

Acts 28:30 NIV

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CALLED OUT To Welcome In

1. How did Sunday's message shift or challenge your concept of hospitality?
2. How do you interact with Henri Nouwen's definition of hospitality that Pastor Nathan presented?
3. Read through Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus in Luke 19. How does this story interact with Nouwen's definition?
4. How have you personally been shown hospitality in the 3 expressions that Pastor Nathan outlined?
5. Which of the three expressions of hospitality are you most comfortable with offering - how, specifically, are you most naturally drawn to show hospitality in this way?
6. Divide up the Acts references that accompany the 3 different expressions of hospitality in the outline. Take turns reading them out and discussing how they apply. Is there anything that stands out to you in these passages?
7. In light of all this - how can we, as a church family, be more hospitable? How can you personally engage more deeply in showing hospitality?
8. Do any of these expressions of hospitality make you personally uncomfortable? Perhaps take time and ask Jesus what he might want to say to you in light of this.

CALLED OUT
a journey through the book of ACTS

March 29,
2015