

THE SIMPLEST WAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Andy Deane · 3/19/2023 · Romans 15:7, Hebrews 13:2

Today we'll be reminded that we already have access to a game-changing secret weapon that transforms the way we think about how to be involved in God's mission. The great thing is that it's really simple and not scary at all.

#1 A small change in our life can lead to big change in our community!

- Don't forget that in God's kingdom, big does not make big. It's the opposite: small makes big.
- Matthew 13:31-32,... *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."*
- Small seeds will leave a larger impact than expected!
- In the same way, the smallest things in our lives (ordinary days & meals & homes) can have a big impact.

#2 What exactly is biblical hospitality?

- The Greek word technically means "love for strangers" (which includes anyone outside home & family).
- Hospitality is welcoming others into our homes & lives.
- Romans 15:7, *welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.* (ESV)
- It's creating a space for a stranger to become a friend.
- Hebrews 13:2, *Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

#3 God's hospitality toward us revealed His love for us.

- The entire story of the Bible is about God's hospitality.
- Genesis 1:28-30, *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground, everything that has the breath of life in it, I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*
 - He creates and gives them everything they need to thrive in His world.
 - This passage reads like God is a gracious host!
- Genesis 3:10, *He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*
 - Adam and Eve sinned and hid from God, but He responded by seeking them out,
 - How is God going to keep being hospitable if He is holy and cannot dwell with evil?
- Genesis 12:2, *I'll make you into a great nation, & I'll bless you...you will be a blessing... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*
 - God would use Israel to be hospitable to all the nations.
 - Unfortunately they didn't do this well.
- Romans 5:6-8, *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - The story culminates with the ultimate act of hospitality.
 - God sending His son Jesus to the cross to rescue us.
- Revelation 19:9, ... *"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"* ...
 - We are invited to have meals with God now as we partake of communion.
 - In the future we'll sit at a table in heaven with Jesus in the flesh.
- Revelation 21:2-3, *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, & God himself will be with them and be their God.*
 - God did all of this so we could live in His eternal home with Him.
 - The Bible begins with God making a home for humanity to dwell with Him in a garden.
 - The Bible ends with God making a home for believers to dwell with Him in a city.
 - He is constantly welcoming in wayward sinners, whose only hope is God showing undeserved hospitality.

#4 Our hospitality toward others reveals Gods love for them.

- Any time we practice hospitality by welcoming people into our lives, we put human flesh on this gospel story.
 - By doing so, we physically communicate the story of God to them: that our sin caused the distance we all feel, but God loves us so much that He made a way for us to return to Him.
 - When we invite those far from God into our homes, we say to them, God loves you and hasn't given up on you.
 - When we open our doors to a non-Christian, it is essentially as if God Himself is opening His door.
 - When Christians practice this repeatedly, it changes the world.
-

SERMON SERIES CHURCH-WIDE CHALLENGE:

Over the next 3 weeks we are giving everyone a simple goal to live our the sermon series:

- 1) Learn a new neighbor's name this week
- 2) Invite them over (or out) for coffee or a meal

Afterwards, let us know how it went by texting "NEIGHBOR" to (951)425-4425.

Visit www.go2cornerstone.com/neighbor for more resources on how to be a good neighbor!