



Hospitality

Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our College Context

“So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

What is Radically Ordinary Hospitality?

*“Those who live out **radically ordinary hospitality** see their homes not as theirs at all but as God’s gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key” (Butterfield, 11).*

The practice of *radically ordinary hospitality* is an opportunity for us to invite those around us into our messy, everyday lives and reveal what true Christian faith really looks like. We don’t have to make an extravagant meal or know all the answers to Biblical questions to practice *radically ordinary hospitality*. We can do it by being ourselves and letting others see what it looks like to follow Christ in the mundane and extraordinary of our lives, including all the highs and lows. Our invitation has the power to disrupt preconceived notions that our friends may have about Christianity based on social media and the news.

This is not a modern concept; we have a Biblical basis for it. Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors (Luke 5:29-32). He interrupted the status quo and made outsiders feel like insiders. We, too, have experienced the personal invitation of Jesus! In the same way that Jesus welcomes us, our hospitality provides a place for those proximate to us to encounter Jesus through us. This can bring about a radical change in their lives. This vision of hospitality should empower us to examine our surroundings and ask, “who is on the outside and how can I invite them in?”

How do we practice hospitality?

We must start where we are, whether that’s a dorm room, family living room, or apartment. We all have resources that we can use for the sake of others. Hospitality is about being open: open to others and open to what God is doing. Here are some **practical elements** to think about when considering next steps in hospitality:

- **Invitation:** Think about who is in your class, your major, or your program that you can invest in and invite.
- **Preparation:** Plan where you will meet and what you will do. Prepare your location, food, and activities accordingly. It doesn’t have to be too fancy, just accessible to the people you invite.
- **Execution:** The most important thing is to do something—do not get stuck in all the planning that you forget to actually practice hospitality.

Some Ideas

- Host a dinner at your house
- Super Bowl Party at the Hub
- Ice cream float night



- Game night where everyone brings a favorite game
- Video game tournaments (Smash Bros, Mario Kart, etc.)
- Gather a group to go to a friend's dance, band, comedy show, etc. performance
- Your idea: _____

Remember, sometimes what is most hospitable is entering into other people's spaces before they ever come to your space. Take your time and listen to God. Know that this journey is often slow, but God is present through it all. Take a step of faith and invite someone into your life. God can transform lives, yours included!

Relevant Scriptures

1 Peter 4:8-10

Romans 12:13-20

Questions for Discussion

- What are the biggest things keeping you from having the emotional space to recognize the needs of those around you? How can you limit/remove them?
- What strengths & interests do you have that you can use for hospitality?
- Where can you start? What are the particulars about your life that you can utilize to bless others?

Recommended Reading:

The Gospel Comes with a House Key by Rosaria Butterfield

