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PARTNERING WITH GOD

SESSION FOUR: Shalom and hospitality



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Shalom and hospitality

Starter

- What are the signs of a flourishing community?
- Share a time when you have experienced surprising welcome or hospitality?
- What are some of the obstacles for people to welcome others or show hospitality?

Video discussion

- Watch the video. What struck you from the video?
- What questions does the video raise for you?
- What did you agree/disagree with? Why?

Bible discussion

- Read the following passages. What do they tell you about shalom and hospitality in the Kingdom of God?

'Work for the shalom of the city where I have sent you; pray to Yahweh on its behalf, for in its shalom you will find your shalom.' (JEREMIAH 29:7)

'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' (LUKE 5:30-31)

Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.' (LUKE 14:12-14)

- Why are food and sharing meals important times for people?
- Why was Jesus' behaviour and teaching so shocking?
- Who are 'the tax collectors and sinners' or 'the outsiders' in your community?

Action

- How can you and your faith community express or help bring shalom in a practical way in your area?
- Apart from hosting a dinner party, what are some practical ways that you / your family / and your faith community could show surprising hospitality?
- How can your faith community support and encourage one another in reaching out to others?

Prayer

- Ask God to show you people in your network that you could reach out to, welcome and share a coffee, morning tea or meal?

Recommended reading

Edge, Lynette and Morgan, Gregory. *Partnering with God: Being a Missional Salvationist*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2017 – especially pages 14-18 and 101-107.