

# COME TO THE HOUSE 2

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SHARING THE SHARED LIFE OF CHRIST



- **What Is Hospitality?**

The biblical notion of hospitality is focused on how we will live as God's people in relationship with people who are different from us. The New Testament word for "hospitality" that is typically used literally means "love of strangers."

- Practical Observations: **Genesis 18:1-8**

- Abraham is eager to show hospitality. (notice vs. 2, 6, 7)
- It was Abraham's choice to offer hospitality
- Abraham offers hospitality with no strings attached.
- Hospitality is disruptive
- True hospitality honors your guest.



The practice often involved three things: food, lodging (or being welcomed into a family space), and protection. Hospitality's elements of food, welcome into family space, and protection are found throughout the bible, including in descriptions of creation, redemption, and new creation.

## **Hospitality and putting our Faith on Display**

- 1. We are speaking about our provision.** - Exercising hospitality will cost us something.
- 2. We are speaking about our contentment.** - Hospitality requires us to share with others
- 3. We are speaking about our future.** - God is not merely redeeming individuals!



- Once upon a time....
- **Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. NLT
- **Can you have real fellowship without real relationships?**
- LIFE IS RELATIONSHIPS; THE REST IS JUST DETAILS.
  - THIS IS THE GREATEST TRUTH. EVERYTHING IN LIFE THAT TRULY MATTERS CAN BE BOILED DOWN TO RELATIONSHIPS. (Gary Smalley – The DNA of Relationship)





- **The DNA of Relationships: Genesis 2:18-25**

- **You are made for relationships.**

- Relationships are part of the creation design.
- You are created to need relationships.

- **You are made with the capacity to choose.**

- You can't always choose your relationships, but you can choose how you will act in those relationships.

- **You are made to take responsibility for yourself.**

- You are responsible for your choices and actions. You cannot change the other person, but you can take responsibility for your own behavior. (Gary Smalley – The DNA of Relationship)

- Without doing “fellowship” you can't obey Jesus. Fellowship is as important as good doctrine; it's as important as partaking of the LORD'S SUPPER; and it's as important as PRAYER itself.



# Where Two or More Are Gathered ...

## Hospitality is the heart of Christian households

Practicing Christians who have regular visitors in their homes are more likely to forge deep, meaningful relationships both within and outside of their homes.

### ● Vibrant

These households talk about God or faith together weekly, pray together every day or two, read the Bible together weekly and welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month.

One in four U.S. practicing Christians lives in a household that qualifies as Vibrant

### ● Devotional

These households talk about God or faith together weekly, pray together every day or two and read the Bible together weekly. They do not welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month.

One in three U.S. practicing Christians lives in a household that qualifies as Devotional

Barna – Households of Faith

## ● Hospitable

These households welcome non-family visitors several times a month. They do not talk about God or faith together weekly, do not pray together every day or two and do not read the Bible together weekly. They might participate in some of these spiritual activities, but not all of them at this frequency.

About one in seven U.S. practicing Christians lives in a household that qualifies as Hospitable

## ● Dormant

These households do not talk about God or faith together weekly, do not pray together every day or two, do not read the Bible together weekly and do not welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month. They might participate in some of these spiritual activities, but not all of them at this frequency.

Over one-quarter of U.S. practicing Christians lives in a household that qualifies as Dormant

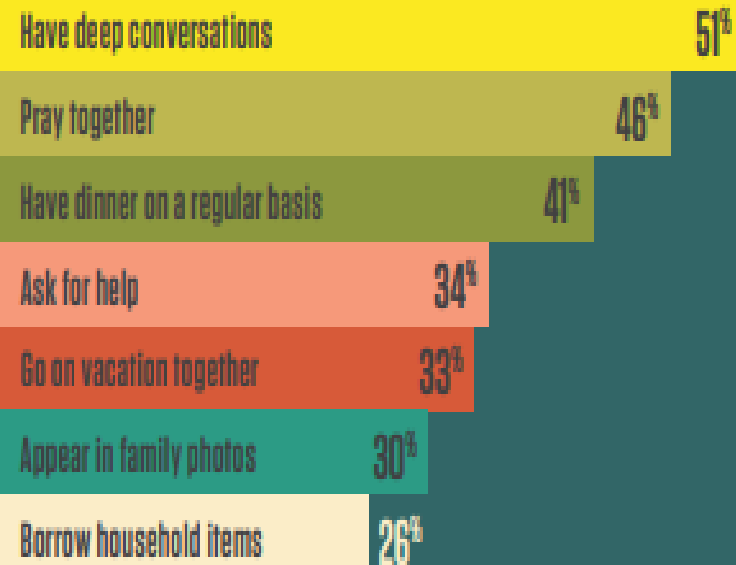
1 Less than one-quarter of American adults **has a spiritual conversation once a month**. More than half of people who claim no religion (55%) say they simply aren't interested in the topic. Concerns about coming off as angry, disrespectful or judgmental are main reasons people feel it can be inappropriate to discuss spiritual matters. Barna – Households of Faith

- **How Do We Share the Shared Life Of Christ?**

## What happens when these close friends get together?

*% among those who have regular visitors*

**Welcome!**





1. Sharing a meal together!
2. Meals almost always involve conversation.
  - a. The more or deeper the relationship the deeper the conversation!
3. Suggestions for conversation:
  - a. How are you doing?
  - b. How is your family doing?
  - c. How is your job going?
  - d. What concerns you most right now?
  - e. What is God personally speaking to you?
4. Pray together (Join hands together or lay hands, always ask for permission)
  - a. Expect the Holy Spirit to show up as you pray together!
5. Anything we can do to help you?
6. Purpose to make more plans together!
  - a. Relationships are a 2-way street.

