



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

EXTEND
HOPE &
HOSPITALITY

Bible Study
for Youth

2020-2021

MISSIONAL HOSPITALITY

MINISTRY FOCUS:

Janée Angel, CBF Field Personnel in Antwerp, Belgium

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 13:2; Luke 14:1, 7-14

SETTING THE STAGE:

You check your phone and there it is. You've been invited to a very exclusive event! All the cool kids are going to be there. No, really! This is THE can't-miss event.

It feels so good to be included and to be invited. Your mind is racing with who might be there. What will you wear? Will you have anything to talk about? You need to get your hair done and get ready!

Attending a big event is such an exciting time. But there's a lot of pressure and everything needs to go right. This is not the time for a zit or anything else that could ruin your experience.

We all love to be included and welcomed. But do you know what it feels like on the other side though? To not be included? To not be welcomed? To be on the outside looking in?

ACTIVITY:

Option 1: A web of connections

Maybe you've heard of the six degrees of separation with Kevin Bacon. This game is a bit like that. Use a poster or a dry ease board and write the name of one person who's in the class. The name can be written anywhere on the board, it doesn't need to be centered. Write a second name of someone else in the class, and then draw a line that connects the two names. On that line, write down some connection between these two individuals (For example, perhaps both are the youngest in their family or both love the Atlanta Hawks or both were born in March, etc.) Continue the web of connections, including each person in the class and making at least two or three connections for each individual. (Be flexible as you consider time and the number of participants.)

Debriefing questions: Was it simple or difficult to make connections between people? What surprised you? Was there anything that you didn't know before? Who has the most connections of those in your group?



Option 2: A Very Important Coffee Date

If you could grab coffee or share dessert with one person (historical figure, Biblical character, celebrity, etc), who would it be?

We've all had the daydream of grabbing coffee or sitting down for a waffle cone with our favorite celebrity, right? Pose the question to your group, but challenge them to not shout out their answers. Instead, pass out slips of paper to each participant. Have each person write down one choice. Collect the slips of paper in a hat or empty coffee mug and then share the answers with the group. Have participants guess who in the group chose each celebrity. Each person gets a point for every celebrity coffee date they correctly match and each person gets a point for how many folks they fool.

Debriefing questions: Who had the most surprising coffee date selection? Did everyone know all the selections that were made? Does anyone want to reconsider and invite a new guest to their coffee date? Does the Bible have any guidance for us in this hypothetical situation?

BIBLICAL CONNECTION:

The Bible is not a social guide, but Holy Scripture does have a lot to say about hospitality.

Have a volunteer read Hebrews 13:2 and Luke 14:1;7-24

In this parable from Luke's gospel, Jesus shares about hosting a great banquet. This event is not well-attended by those invited. The invited ones decline the invitation in a bunch of different ways, and a few of their excuses are bogus. Instead of canceling the event, the host decides to invite the poor, the crippled and the blind. When the room is not yet full, the servant invites even more people from the street.

The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us that the kindness and hospitality shared with strangers might be hospitality and graciousness extended to angels unaware to us. This should challenge the ways in which we treat people that we don't even know.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be people of hospitality. We're called to be good hosts and respectful guests which means more than simply tucking in your shirt and keeping your shoes off the furniture. Being hospitable is more than just being polite.

The parable in Luke's gospel takes on additional significance when we



are reminded that Jesus tells this story while dining with the Pharisees, a scandalous invitation for him to have accepted.

Showing Christian hospitality overlaps with our view of missions. Hosting an event isn't an opportunity to lord power over invited guests and, in the same way, good mission work doesn't place others in debt or show the ugly side of generosity with strings attached.

What do these scripture passages (or others) teach us about hospitality?

What does it look like to invite guests over to your home? How do you welcome people into your home?

Who in your life models hospitality in a Christlike manner?

How is missional hospitality more than just being polite?

Beyond hosting, in what ways can you and your group show hospitality throughout the week?

MISSIONAL CONNECTION:

Janée Angel is a CBF Field Personnel in Antwerp, Belgium. She and her husband, Hary, work with the growing Arabic-speaking population of refugees and immigrants that have resettled in Belgium. Many of these refugees and immigrants are from Syria and Iraq and have traveled there to start their lives over due to the wars in their home countries. They come as a family unit or individuals with only the items they can carry.

Hary says, "When a refuge comes to this country, they feel lonely because everyone in Europe is busy. So, we as the church should make them feel as if we are their family."

Their congregation hosts Dutch lessons for Arabic speakers, Bible studies and a weekly prayer meeting. During all of these times together, food and hospitality open the door to conversations about Jesus. Hary says that food brings people together despite their differences.

"Our congregation is probably about 50% people coming out of Islam and 50% of those who have been in church their whole lives. As we put those two groups together, food can be a unifier."



For Janée and Hary, hospitality and missions are one and the same. The mutual love between these brothers and sisters in Christ is tight knit enough to be transformational, but not so enmeshed that there is not room enough for the newcomer or visitor.

CALL TO ACTION:

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's mission commitments include:

- Cultivating beloved community
- Bearing witness to Jesus Christ
- Seeking transformational development

As believers in Jesus Christ and partners in mission, we are called to be about these values as well because the gospel compels us to do so. We are called to offer radical hospitality, to model the way of Jesus, and to make long-term commitments that uplift the downtrodden.

The Offering for Global Missions helps to fund the kingdom work of CBF Field Personnel like Janée Angel in Antwerp, Belgium. Pray for Janée and Hary. Pray for those from Northern Africa and the Middle East that travel to Belgium seeking safety from warfare. Offer thanksgiving for the 35 baptisms in their congregation last year and pray that many more will know the freedom of following Jesus Christ.

Set a goal as a class for supporting the Offering for Global Missions and consider donating directly to help field personnel. For \$150, your class could sponsor an Evangelism Event that will feed 80 people with physical and spiritual nourishment.

