



**A JOURNEY OF  
RADICAL HOSPITALITY**

# leaders guide

## THANK YOU

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Thank you so much for agreeing to host one of our 'Flourish' Groups. We are excited about this season for the Forest Brook community and are grateful for your leadership! The highest call of this role is hospitality itself - your role is to make each member of the group feel welcomed, included, heard and seen. Secondary to that you will facilitate discussion and dialogue around the video content each week. In addition to this leader's guide, you'll receive a weekly email with links for that week's video and some additional resources for your small group time!

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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- There is a card that corresponds with each week of content. The videos are divided into several sections and the video will prompt you to 'pause' to discuss before continuing.
- For each section of video content, there are several questions. These are meant to serve as a 'jumping off' point for discussion and conversation. You can work through them all, or pick your favourite. You can also allow conversation to free-flow. You might incorporate some ideas from the Sunday sermon as well. Use your discernment as you lead your group!
- There are corresponding passages of scripture with each week. You can choose how you incorporate these into your gathering - perhaps reading them to open or close your time together.

## DON'T FORGET THE JOURNAL

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- Your whole group should have a copy of the journal we've created to correspond with this series. For each week, there are pages for them to track with the small group content as well as pages for personal reflection throughout the week. Be sure to remind them of this!



# **RADICAL HOSPITALITY**



### SCRIPTURE TO REFERENCE

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James 2:5-6a

### WELCOME OF THE STRANGER

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- What does hospitality mean to you? What are some of our ideas about hospitality?
- How and where do you see this word used 'on the ground' in our culture? (For example; the Hospitality and Tourism industry.)
- What do you think about the way Greg defines hospitality and its evolution (or erosion)?

### WHAT MAKES IT SO 'RADICAL'?

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- Why is hospitality (as we are defining it - affection for strangers) considered 'radical'?
- Greg says that when we reach out to those outside of our circle of affection (those who are different than us), "it gets complicated." What do you think about that? What would you add to this? Can you think of an experience you've had where this is true?
- Why do you think we tend to think of ourselves at the center of the Kingdom of God? Do you find it hard to flip this narrative around - where the meek (poor, excluded, shut out) are at the center of God's Kingdom? Why or why not?
- Can you share about a time you have had to risk in faith, and what was the result?

### WHAT HOLDS US BACK?

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- What resonates with you when Greg describes consumerism and individualism and the church? Do you disagree with anything you've heard?
- "When I buy something, it's mine." How do you think this statement relates to us at Forest Brook?
- What holds you back from interacting with strangers (people who are different than you)?
- What do you think is holding us (Forest Brook, a church family) back from true radical hospitality?



# JESUS & HOSPITALITY



## WEEK TWO

### SCRIPTURE TO REFERENCE

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Matthew 10:40-42 (MSG)

Mark 2:15 (NIV)

Matthew 25:37-40

Hebrews 13:1-3

Matthew 25:37-40

### JESUS AS THE STRANGER

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- Jesus experiences hospitality through his birth, became a refugee, stayed with others throughout his lifetime - Jesus identifies as the stranger in many instances. Is this a familiar or new concept for you?
- Have you ever felt like a stranger? What was that experience like?
- When have you **received** hospitality? How did you feel?
- Any thoughts on that 'big question' - how do we collectively live the way of Jesus together?

### INTERDEPENDENCE

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- Where are the places that you hold power? (*What's your 'soup ladle'? Greg's example of those who serve at a soup kitchen.*) How aware are you of your own position of power or privilege?
- When you hear Greg's story about sharing food around the table, what is your **reaction**?
- Do you find it **easy** or difficult to ask for help? Admit vulnerability? Why do you think this is? How do you think this affects us as a church community? Do we live like we really need each other? Like we need God?



**WITH'  
NESS**

## WEEK THREE

### SCRIPTURE TO REFERENCE

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Luke 7:11-13 (NIV)

Luke 7:36-47

### UNLEARNING

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- Share your reactions to Greg's story.
- As Greg shares his story, he references *becoming conscious* to things he was previously unconscious to - his privilege, thinking he had it all figured out, non-negotiables, etc. Can you identify with this? Share something you have learned or unlearned. What prompted this growth?
- What type of metrics do we use to measure 'success' in living as Jesus-followers? Are these good measures? Why or why not?

### PROXIMITY AS THE SOLUTION

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- Think about the people within your orbit (neighbourhood, workplace, school, etc.) who are excluded for some reason. What could it look like for you to go be with them, to learn from them? How does thinking about that make you feel?
- As a church, how well do you think we go where people are, instead of bringing people into our space? Share some examples, and suggest some ways we might continue to grow in this area.
- Greg affirms it's totally natural to fear leaving our comfort zones. Name some of the things that hold you back from following Jesus out of your comfort zone.
- Share about a time you have gone somewhere or done something with the intention of helping or fixing, and instead, you found yourself on the receiving end.





**PRACTICE**

**THE WAY**

## WEEK FOUR

### SCRIPTURE TO REFERENCE

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Leviticus 19:33-34

Luke 10:33-37

### WHO IS MY STRANGER?

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- Who are our strangers- the categories of people excluded in our neighbourhood in Ajax? The Region of Durham? Your own neighbourhood? (*How aware/unaware are you of these demographics?*) Suggest some ways we could collectively do some research to this end.
- What does it look like to discern in community? How do we listen for God's leading together? Share an example of a time you've experienced discerning God's voices as a group.
- If and when God prompts us to pursue our strangers, what would it take for us to be *agile to respond* to His leading?
- What do you think about Greg's statement that new projects and programs are not going to be the the way we best practice radical hospitality as a church?

### WHAT DOES A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

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- What would it look like if Forest Brook became a place where 'Beatitudes people' (the poor, meek, excluded, etc.) were at the centre? Which voices do you think we are missing in our community?
- What does a Kingdom community look like? Some of the characteristics Greg shared were justice and shalom (*the presence of health, wholeness, goodness and flourishing for all*), what are some other characteristics or values of a Kingdom community?
- Spend some time praying together, that God's kingdom would come, on Earth, *at Forest Brook* as it is in Heaven.