



BREAKING THE ICE

Do you have any good lunchroom stories from when you were in school?

Who is the most hospitable person you know?

MAIN CONTENT

Pastor Kevin started our first Sunday of the year talking about “Everyone’s Welcome” at Cross Point. We believe that statement so much that we have it written on our walls, printed on t-shirts we wear and on mugs we give out.

God tells us to love Him and love others. When we say “Everyone’s Welcome,” we believe we are working towards the heart of God; we love others when we welcome them.

1. Do you find it hard to love others?

It is important to God that we love Him and love others. Is the heart of God important to you?

As a church, we want to make sure we follow what God asks of us. We want everyone to feel welcome in our buildings and also when we are living our daily lives. When we say “Everyone’s Welcome,” we are talking about hospitality. Hospitality means making space for strangers in our church, our homes and our lives. When we say “Everyone’s Welcome,” we are practicing biblical hospitality.

2. How do you practice biblical hospitality in your life?

Jesus made space for all sorts of people He didn’t have to: tax collectors, prostitutes, widows, children... everyone. Jesus lived a life of hospitality, always welcoming people to come sit with Him. He was so kind that He would get angry when He saw people who were mistreated.

3. Have you ever gotten angry from seeing someone mistreated? What did you do about the situation?

Pastor Kevin taught us that strangers matter to God. Outsiders matter to God. Hospitality matters to God. It was a way of life in the early church, a key practice.

Read Hebrews 13:2 and 1 Peter 4:9

Hospitality starts in the heart.

4. We say “Everyone’s Welcome,” but is everyone welcome around you?

2021 is a new year, a new opportunity to practice hospitality. There are three things we can learn about practicing hospitality: Jesus is everywhere, everything belongs to God and kindness wins life. When we understand that Jesus is everywhere, we know that when we love strangers, we are loving Jesus.

Read Matthew 25:40

5. When was the last time you loved a stranger well? What happened?

Everything belongs to God. When we realize everything belongs to God, we are more likely to share what we have. He allows us to use His resources. When we are generous and practice hospitality with the gifts He has given us, we can show God’s love to all people.

6. Explain a time when someone’s generosity towards you made a difference in your life.

The last thing Pastor Kevin taught us about hospitality was that kindness wins life. When we are kind to others, it changes things.

7. Who is the kindest person you know? How has their kindness affected you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for being the kindest person we know. Will You help us to be kind to others. To show them the love that You show us. We want to be hospitable and see everyone the way You see them. Where we need to share our resources and be generous with others, will You prompt us to do that. Help us to be a reflection of You. In Your name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Practice hospitality this week by being kind to your neighbors or those you come in contact with. Some ideas could include:

- + Taking your neighbors some treats or a meal.
- + Asking someone to dinner or coffee that you have wanted to have a deeper friendship with.
- + Talking to someone you don't agree with and just listening to them, instead of ignoring what they have to say.