**Offer Hospitality to One Another**

**The Word**

Read together 1 Peter 4:7-11

**The Big Idea**

Hospitality is a core posture within the community of God in which we make room for one another. Our hospitality to one another is grounded in God’s hospitality to us.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What idea from today’s message added most to your understanding or appreciation of biblical hospitality?

2. How might considering God as both host and guest change the way you approach hospitality?

3. As you consider the three examples of hospitality mentioned, is there anything specific you are feeling called to do in the coming weeks as a way of practicing hospitality?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

A. This summer we are exploring the “one anothers” in Scripture as a way of considering what the church is. Today’s one another is found in v. 9: “Offer hospitality to one another.”

B. Overview of hospitality

1. The basic idea of hospitality is making room for the other

1. In physical hospitality we make room in our home for someone – we clean the house, set the table, and create a space of warmth and welcome for a guest

2. In relational hospitality we make room in our hearts for someone – our presence can create a space of safety, acceptance, and peace that frees them to be themselves and feel loved an welcomed

2. Biblical hospitality is rooted in the idea that God is both the ultimate host and guest

1. God is the host: the gospel is that, while we were sinners alienated from God, through Jesus, God has made room for us and welcomed us into his Trinitarian life. So when we offer hospitality to others, we do so from a place of fullness having received God’s hospitality

2. God is the guest: Jesus so identifies with his people in need (read Mt 25:35-40), that offering hospitality to fellow brothers and sisters is a way to serve Jesus himself.

C. Three practical ways we can pursue hospitality at this time

1. Invite people into your homes to share a meal

- Many people have been feeling isolated and lonely and are craving connection.

- Jesus was incredibly hospitable in terms of who he was willing to eat with. His meals with sinners and outcasts were tangible experiences of his grace.

2. Practice a hospitality with your schedule by being interruptible

- Many of our schedules have been disrupted and so this is a great opportunity to hold our schedules loosely and be open to being interrupted by an important need

- So much of Jesus’ ministry took place in the interruptions, and he was totally available to needs as they presented themselves to him

3. Practice relational hospitality by listening well

- There are so many “disputable matters” in our nation currently, and so many people are busy shouting and talking, so the simple act of listening can be a profound counter-cultural act of hospitality in this moment.

- Jesus had deep convictions and yet had space for those who lived differently.