



LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER

AWAKEN RISK BLESS

HOSPITALITY

PURPOSE

Hospitality is about creating welcoming space for the other. The practice of hospitality originated in the ancient world and was expected as travelers would seek shelter and food after traveling great distances. This practice is about living a life of hospitality. Henri Nouwen writes, “Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.”

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/1003038-hospitality-is-not-to-change-people-but-to-offer-them>

We engage in hospitality because our actions flow out of our deep love and conviction of the worth of all persons.

SUGGESTED STEPS

1. Consider engaging in this practice several times each month.
2. Consider whom the Spirit is inviting you to surprise with an invitation and hospitality. This could be over a meal like the Sharing in the Round practice, an invitation for coffee, or simply an invitation to a conversation. Although not required, offering one’s home as a space for conversation and sharing is an act of vulnerability.
3. Consider how you can make the other person feel welcome. How does your body language and attentiveness convey deep interest and invitation to share? How have you prepared the location to foster comfort and sharing.
4. Reflect on the experience afterwards. What did you learn about yourself and the other person? What might you do differently next time?

TIPS FOR THE PROCESS

Consider practicing on family members or close friends first. Ask them about their experience and what you could have done to make it better. Then expand hospitality to those you don’t know well.