



Love God



Love One Another



Do Mission Together



**Home Group study: week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**THEME: MERE HOSPITALITY? - HOSPITALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**PASSAGE: GENESIS 18v1-8 and GENESIS 19v1-9**

#### **LAUNCH**

Read this interesting quote by Henri Nouwen (Christian philosopher) *“Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. 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.”* - Henri J.M. Nouwen

What are the key truths that Nouwen is trying to communicate?

#### **DISCOVERY and UNDERSTANDING**

As you read the 2 accounts of hospitality in Genesis 18 and 19, what are the stand out elements of hospitality that you can see?

What sacrifices did Abraham and Lot make in order to provide excellent hospitality? What sacrifices might we need to make to do the same?

Why do you think that hospitality in the UK in the 21st century is a lot less important than hospitality in the time of Abraham? What does the demonstration of hospitality by Christians tell recipients of that hospitality about the character of God?

The behaviour of the citizens of Sodom was clear evidence as to why they were under the judgement of God (reminiscent of a high security prison rather than a community). Do you think the UK is drifting in a similar direction? Why or why not?

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently said that deporting immigrants to Rwanda went against the character of God. Do you support this view or disagree with it?

Abraham seemed well prepared for engaging in spontaneous hospitality. What could you do to prepare your home (or life) for increased acts of hospitality?

**APPLICATION**

What hospitality are you planning for those outside the church in the coming week? Spend time praying that the space you provide for them will draw them closer to Christ.