

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

(Hebrews 13. 2)

The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond

Lent Course 2011 At The Table

Week 1 Sunday 13th March

**Welcoming the stranger:
Abraham and the three visitors**

Genesis 18. 1-15

James 2. 1-5

Luke 10. 1-11

Next week

We will explore the Biblical account of the origin of the Passover meal.

The Bible readings will be:

Exodus 12. 1-14

1 Corinthians 11. 23-26

Luke 9. 1-6

What do you know about the Passover?

Have you experienced our 'Last Supper' on Maundy Thursday, or taken part in a Passover meal?

The Course Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his friends
as they gathered at the table
and broke bread together:
open the eyes of our faith
so that we may see all things
in the light of your love,
shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Getting Started

What place does hospitality have in our culture—and how does that compare with other cultures that we have experienced?

Share some stories of memorable experiences of receiving generous hospitality from others.

Hearing the Word

Read: Genesis 18. 1-15

Listen for Abraham's reaction to the strangers who arrive, and what the passage tells us about who they are.

Exploring the Word

1. How does Abraham respond to his visitors?
2. Who are the visitors?
3. Read the other passages we had in our Sunday services:
 James 2. 1-5; Luke 10. 1-11
 Discuss what they show us about:
 welcome and hospitality
 meeting God in other people

Living the Word

What is the right balance between openness to other people, and being cautious with strangers?

Are there ways that we could improve the welcome that we offer to others:
 as individuals (and families)
 as a church?

Are there ways that we could be more open to meeting with God through the meetings and experiences of our lives?

Praying the Word

Take some time to reflect in quiet together, and to offer our thoughts and discussions in prayer.

A prayer based on this theme and reading:

Living God,
as Abraham welcomed strangers to his table,
and discovered your presence with him;
so help us to live with open and generous hearts,
and be ready to meet you as we meet with others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.