

Essential Hospitality 4: sacrificial

1 John 3:16-24

Welcome (10 mins)

Have you experienced a time when someone's actions of love was truly sacrificial? Or you may know of one?

Worship (15 mins)

Either print a picture of Christ on the cross (eg <https://i.pinimg.com/474x/d2/7e/8e/d27e8e6bdaddb1a6c25c2491bdeea52a.jpg>) I'm sorry I couldn't find out who created this sculpture. If anyone finds out, do let me know! Or put a cross on a table. You could add a lighted candle.

In a reflective way read Isaiah 53.3-5; then Luke 23.32-47. Get one person to read it all (or one per passage)

Sing the song: 'O Praise The Name' (Anastasis)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZTGk_NvcBM. You may want to kneel before Christ as you sing. Pray and praise our Saviour.

Word (40 mins)

Read 1 John 3:16-24

1. What is the heart of John's message?
2. What is John's definition of love, v16-18? How does this differ from contemporary definitions?
3. What should motivate our 'loving others'? (Push to get at least three motivations from these verses. You can find more!)
4. What are we assured of through loving others? v14,19-20,24)
5. What is the connection between love and hospitality? Theologically? Practically?

6. How would you like to consciously practice Jesus-like love/hospitality this week? With your family? A friend? At church? In politics? In social issues? A difficult person? A person in need?
7. How will doing this affect your own need for love?

Reflection: As you think back over this series on hospitality, what new insights have you had? What have you been challenged about? How will you change your practice?
Do send through any feedback on the series (not personal ones but on the series as a whole) to James and me.

Witness (10 mins)

In the Witness section through this series on 'Essential Hospitality', we have had opportunities

- to consider sharing the 'Welcome Hospitality' at church,
- planned a 'Social' event for your group,
- prayed for your groups Mission Partners (and chosen a person from within the group to act as your 'Link person').

Have you made decisions on all of these - or do you need to revisit and decide?

Pray for Emma as she leads the work of community outreach, for help when she needs it, energy and wisdom, for someone else to head up the furniture collection side - or even drivers. Pray for Catherine as she reaches out to vulnerable children through the school.

Pray for anyone you know who is leading a truly sacrificial life at the moment? Maybe they are caring for someone who is ill or

handicapped, or they have a ministry which is hugely



demanding. Pray for the lov