



Practicing Hospitality

"Take every opportunity to open your life and your home to others." Romans 12:13 (VOICE)

Hospitality is connected to the word hospital. Both are about taking care of other people. Hospitality is sharing love in a way that invites others to belong and to feel valued. Genuine hospitality is mutual; when we share ourselves and our possessions, we also receive gifts that can't be measured.

1. Teach your children songs that remind them about sharing love with others.

Try this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UhXG2Sk1I8>

I've got peace, peace, peace in my fingers.

(peace sign - palm facing away from body, pointer and middle finger up, and thumb holding other fingers)

Watch what I can do. (point to eyes)

I've got peace, peace, peace in my fingers,
(peace sign)

I'm gonna shake hands with you.

(clasp hands together & shake)

I've got love, love, love in my heart,

(make a heart with hands)

Watch what I can do. (point to eyes)

I've got love, love, love in my heart,
(make a heart with hands)

I'm gonna give some to you. (hands open and out)

Or this one from John 15:12:

This is my commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full. (repeat)

That your joy may be full. (repeat)

This is my commandment that you love one another,
that your joy may be full.

2. Learn to know your neighbors! Consider weekly (or monthly) outdoor suppers with neighbors during the warmer months. When everyone brings a dish or two to share, hospitality can focus on relationship building.

3. Nurture friendships with families of different ethnicities and cultures.

We are all created in God's image. We experience more of God and model steps toward racial reconciliation as we embrace relationships with people different than us.

4. Invite guests to your home and include your children in hosting them.

<http://meaningfulmama.com/hospitality-chart-teaching-hospitality-to-kids.html>

5. Include the kids as you pray for friends and neighbors to understand Jesus' love.

Include your children in doing acts of kindness. Invite friends and neighbors to join in your congregational activities.

6. Model hospitality in relationships at home.

Be attentive, listen carefully, and reply warmly. Affirm the unique gifts of each one. Take time to play with your children. Offer apologies and forgiveness after conflicts. These everyday practices help children learn about hospitality.¹

Created by Sharon Witmer Yoder 2017; Updated 2020.

¹ Marjorie Thompson. *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995), 129-130.