

## Team Member Session #2

### Culture of Hospitality

**Competency:** Learn how to demonstrate hospitality in your role at Calvary and the larger community.

**Assignment:**

1. Read the Scripture passage
2. Answer the Scripture reflection questions.
3. "Building a Culture of Hospitality at Calvary and in the Community."
4. Answer the reflection questions.

**Read: John 13:1-35**

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."  
12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"

13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he



spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." 28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## Reflection Questions

- Where does this story take place?
- From verses 1, 3, and 31 we see that Jesus had a clear understanding of who He was, where He had come from, what He had come to do on earth, and where He was about to go. What do you learn about Jesus' understanding of Himself from these verses?
- In Jesus' culture, what was the purpose of washing someone's feet when they entered a house?
- Who was the typical person who would wash the feet of guests entering a house?
- With the knowledge and conviction that He is the creator of the universe and the promised messiah, Jesus rises to wash His disciples' feet. In verses 12-17 Jesus explains why He washed His disciples' feet. What is He trying to teach his disciples to know and do?



- From this passage, it is clear Jesus knew that Judas was going to be the one to betray Him. Judas betrayed Jesus with clean feet. What can we learn from Jesus's example?
- In verses 34-35, what did Jesus instruct those who follow Him to do?
- What is the outcome of loving people the way Jesus loved his disciples?

**Read:****Building a Culture of Hospitality at Calvary and Becoming a Person of Hospitality in our Community**

When you walk into a new place, whether it's a restaurant, school, gym, job, or anywhere else, what do you feel? Think back to a time when you were new somewhere. What was it that made you feel at home, eased your anxiety, or maybe even made you feel like you belonged there? For many of us, it was a person greeting us with a smile, asking our names, and helping us navigate where we are going. It was a teacher helping you find your desk, a co-worker helping you find the break room, or someone sitting with you during lunch. These intentional acts of acknowledging you, greeting you, and welcoming you helped make you feel at home.

At Calvary, our desire is for every person to experience a culture of hospitality in our church and larger community. What do we mean by a culture of hospitality? Culture is a word for the 'way of life' of groups of people. Every group and gathering of people has a culture. The interesting thing about culture is that humans are simultaneously shaped by and are also shaping their culture. We are influenced by the culture we exist in and, at the same time, are influencing what that culture looks like to others. Hospitality can be defined as the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way. In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." At Calvary we believe as Christians and members of one body we are all ministers and responsible for building this culture.

How does a community of people become known for being warm, friendly, and generous? Through simple, consistently repeated behaviors.



So, what are the core behaviors Calvary is committed to that will cultivate a culture of hospitality?

## **Calvary's Core Behaviors of Hospitality**

1. We say "hi."
2. We smile at everyone who comes within ten feet of us, and say hi to anyone within five feet of us.
3. We make space for welcoming and caring for others.
4. We ask questions after saying hi.
5. We pray on the spot for needs that come up.

### Why do we say hi?

At Calvary and in the Community:

It's easy! Anyone can say "Hi." Extroverts, introverts, young, old, and everyone in between. Everyone can take this simple and crucial first step of welcoming people. This is a simple way to share joy wherever we go!

### Who do we say hi to?

At Calvary and in the Community:

Anyone who comes within five feet of you. This second core behavior is informed by research done by Disney. They found that guests who were not acknowledged when they walked within ten feet of a cast member had an experience (could be conscious or subconscious) of being ignored. This means that the presence of a friendly "hi" is powerfully felt, whether present or absent from the interaction.

### When are we intentional about saying hi?

At Calvary:

Ten minutes before and after a program or service. Regardless of what ministry you are serving in, it's important to remember: programs are important, but people are more important. Programs and services would not exist without the people gathered in them. Be prepared for the service or program ten minutes before it starts and look for people you don't know after service.

In the Community:



We live in such a busy society that it can be hard to slow down enough to say hello and have conversations with others. As much as you are able, try to arrive early to a work meeting or linger longer in the driveway as a way of providing space for hospitality to happen. In his book, *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People* John Ortberg says, "Love and hurry are fundamentally incompatible. Love always takes time, and time is the one thing hurried people don't have." Look for ways to slow down and be present in the spaces you occupy each day. By doing this, we open up more possibilities to practice hospitality and love for others

### What question should I ask after saying hi?

At Calvary:

How long have you been coming to Calvary? As we are saying hi to people, we may meet someone new to us. It is important to note that just because someone is new to you, that doesn't necessarily mean they are new to Calvary. No one wants to say, "Are you new?" and be answered with, "No, we've been coming for ten years." Thankfully, that's an awkward moment we can easily avoid.

By instead asking, "How long have you been coming?" we can gather information without making the other person feel awkward for not being known. This equips us with the knowledge we need to be able to connect with them. Maybe it is their first time with us; now you get to be the person that helps make Calvary home! Or perhaps they have been around a while, and they are just new to you, now you have met someone else that calls Calvary home. Either way, we are helping to build communities of people that love God and love others.

In the Community:

Asking questions is a great way to help someone feel seen and known. We all know people who are great question-askers. However, we all can grow and develop this skill by starting with simple questions such as: How is your day going? What did you do last weekend? How are you enjoying the sun/snow? After someone shares their response, be curious and ask more questions! Everyone wants to feel known and most are willing to share a little about their life. Simple conversations like these can simply brighten someone's day or even lead to deeper topics and closer relationships.

### Why Pray on the Spot?

At Calvary:

When someone asks you to pray about a need, do you? Are you faithful to remember their request in prayer? Or do you sometimes forget? It can be easy to forget as you



move on to other things. It's easy just to say, "I'll be praying about that." when you are in the moment and have the best of intentions. But the need and promise are often forgotten as the hectic pace of life kicks in, and months can pass before it's remembered.

We can avoid this common experience by responding in the conversation with, "Can I pray for you about that?" Taking advantage of the moment to pray can be an encouraging and powerful experience. How awesome would it be to walk into the church lobby and see people being prayed for by others? Additionally, praying in the moment makes a memorable experience for you as well. After praying with them, you will be more likely to remember the person and their request next time you see them.

In the Community:

Praying with someone in the community will look different depending on your relationship with that person. This will require discernment and listening to the Holy Spirit as you talk with someone. Perhaps God prompts you to pray silently for the receptionist at your doctor's office after checking in for an appointment. Maybe you mention to a co-worker that you'll be praying for her big presentation tomorrow morning. Other times you are able to pray on the spot with a neighbor who shares a struggle with you. Regardless, don't underestimate the power of prayer to change our own hearts and the hearts of others as we seek to be a people of hospitality.

These core behaviors put us in a position to welcome people into the community wherever we are serving. They prioritize people and cultivating relationships with them. This is the kind of hospitality that we want to be about at Calvary. It flows out of our mission of building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others. To be in community is to be known and to know others. So, would you help us continue to build that culture here at Calvary and in our community by cultivating it on the front lines?

## Reflection Questions

- Please briefly describe an experience you have had where a person or group of people helped you feel comfortable and welcome in a new environment.
- What makes the ten minutes before and ten minutes after important moments?



- How might Calvary's Core Behaviors of Hospitality list relate to the practice of feet washing from John 13?
- Which core behavior comes naturally to you? Why?
- Which core behavior is a struggle for you? What steps can you take to improve in this area?

