

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2015
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 11

Point 2: *Share a true story about hospitality.*

Read this story to your class:

Two years ago, on June 28 (2005), four Navy SEAL commandos were on a mission in Afghanistan, searching for a notorious al-Qaeda terrorist leader hiding in a Taliban stronghold.

As the battle ensued, three of the SEALs were killed, and the fourth, Marcus Luttrell, was blasted unconscious by a rocket grenade and blown over a cliff. Severely injured, he spent the next four days fighting off six al Qaeda assassins who were sent to finish him, and then crawled for seven miles through the mountains before he was taken in by a Pashtun tribe, who risked everything to protect him from the encircling Taliban killers.

They took Luttrell back to their village, where the law of hospitality, considered “strictly non-negotiable,” took hold. “They were committed to defend me against the Taliban,” Luttrell wrote, “until there was no one left alive.” (*Lone Survivor* – by Marcus Luttrell)

The Law of Hospitality is very strong in Middle Eastern culture, and has been that way for many millennia. It prompted Abraham in our reading from Genesis today to offer food and drink to his three visitors, the Lord and two angels.

It is what prompted Lot in the next chapter to protect the two angels in his home in Sodom from the men who wanted to rape them. While Lot’s idea of how to protect them is appalling to us—he offers his daughters to the crowd instead—the point is that the Law of Hospitality is so strong that it even supersedes the obligation to protect one’s own family.

[Source: Austin Mansfield, “Two Years Ago, On June 28 (2005), Four Navy Seal...” SermonCentral.com [online] July 2007 [cited 31 July 2015]. Available from the Internet:

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-austin-mansfield-stories-hospitality-doinggodswill-62630.asp>.]

Discuss how difficult or not difficult it is to show hospitality to those who are different than us.

Point 3: *Show a video in order to illustrate hospitality and the gospel.*

Show this short clip of Anna Moore from Christianity.com talking about hospitality and the love of Christ. The video, “Why Is Practicing Hospitality So Important for Christians?” (3 minutes, 14 seconds), can be found here: <http://www.christianity.com/christian-life/why-is-practicing-hospitality-so-important-for-christians.html>

Discuss with your class how the way we love others is directly related to our view of the gospel.

Conclusion: *Address the need for a hospitality strategy.*

Show this tweet (or a picture of it) to your class from Tim Brister: <https://twitter.com/timmybrister/status/358633605548892160>

Discuss the importance of strategy and how the group members can develop their own hospitality strategies. Then challenge each of them to develop a hospitality strategy.