

# What's For Dinner?

By Lee Yates



Accepting hospitality can be a challenge. It can also be a form of service. When we learn to be present in someone else's space and allow them to serve us, we are giving a holy gift. This activity will explore the giving and receiving of hospitality as presented in Luke 10.

## For

Young Adult

## Season

Summer

## Needed

Bible

## Activity Plan

1. Read Luke 10:1-12 and then read it again (see last page).
2. Reflect on the following questions:
  - How would it feel to start a journey without a plan and without a destination?
  - How good are you at allowing others to care for you?
  - Who would you struggle to receive care or hospitality from if you were traveling?
3. Read Luke 10:1-12 again (yes, again). Note that:
  - Jesus sends his followers like lambs among wolves.
  - Jesus says to stay there even if their peace is refused.
4. Consider this. In each of our lives there are opportunities to serve and be served. Often we refuse to let others serve us out of pride, or because our culture celebrates independence. Other times we refuse to let others serve us because we don't want to owe someone. Many of us also have a list of people we try to avoid, whether the intrusive aunt or doting grandfather or critical sibling or unappeasable parent or another.
5. Make a list of ten people from whom you have not allowed yourself to receive hospitality (at least not recently). Your list should be diverse and can include specific people or categories (family, high school friends, church members, and so on).
6. Look over your list and see if any of the people jump out to you. Pick a few and try to make a date to spend some time with them. The catch is, you cannot invite them to your home and you cannot meet them out somewhere. You are basically inviting yourself to their home. Need help inviting yourself over? Here are some helpful conversation starters:
  - "Hey, I haven't seen you in ever and will be in town. Can I swing by and see you?"
  - "I've been thinking about you. Is there a time I could come by and visit with you?"

- If all else fails, just say, “I’m hungry, what do you have that we could call dinner?”
7. When you go, be attentive to their space and their gifts to you. These gifts could be food, affection, attention, or just the time spent together. In your time together, do not press any agenda. You do not need to fix any old family issues or force an old friendship to rekindle. Simply appreciate being welcomed into their space and allow them to be host. If you struggle for conversation, ask them about their life. Let them show you the things in their home, the things they hold dear. Faith may be a topic of conversation but it is not a requirement.
  8. Along the way, you may be asked “Why are you doing this?” Be cautious of your answer. It is probably not a good idea to tell people they were on a list of people you avoid. It is not a bad idea to tell people you felt prayerfully called to spend time with them. Follow your gut and explain your reasoning in your own words.
  9. After you leave, prayerfully reflect on your experience and let God into the conversation. Jesus did a lot of eating with others in their homes and he spent a lot of time alone in prayer. Sometimes the hospitality of others makes us need alone time, as it gives us a lot to think about. Let Jesus be your example.
  10. You can share your experiences with other Vibrant Faith @ Home users by using the Comment feature at bottom of the landing page for this activity.



## Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two

### Luke 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

