

# Hospitality Ideas

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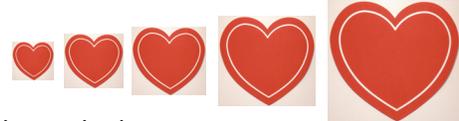
**Contribute to the needs of the saints, and seek to show hospitality.**

**Romans 12:13 ESV**

My mother had the gift of hospitality. People were always just "stopping by." With four children, our home had a "lived-in" look about it but that didn't seem to bother my mother. **When friends came by unexpectedly, she stopped what she was doing and made them feel welcome.**



**Hospitality actually starts in the heart ... it's about how you make others feel, not what you feed them or how your house looks.**



Most of us live busy lives and it's hard to find the time to invite people into our homes. There are some of us who mistakenly think our house has to be spotless and/or we have to be a great cook. While these traits are desirable, they are not a requirement to show hospitality.



Some people are comfortable entertaining ... family, relatives, friends and even strangers. Then there are some who think they don't have the gift of hospitality, but they can learn skills to help them become a good hostess. **Hospitality isn't about entertaining, it's about listening and connecting with others ...** having something to eat is a bonus! Inviting people into your home is a blessing that flows in both directions ... to your guests and back to you.



If you are one of those who gets nervous just thinking of having people in your home, there is help for you! In her book, **A Life That Says WELCOME**, Karen Ehman talks about finding ways to show hospitality or entertain others without having them in your home. She calls it "**hospitality on the road.**" This is how it is done ... you can:



- ☆ Invite someone to a movie you think they would enjoy
- ☆ **Make plans to have dinner at a restaurant ... let someone else do the cooking**



- ☆ Bake a cake or a loaf of bread and take it to a shut-in
- ☆ **Prepare a meal and take it to a new mother**
- ☆ Offer to pick someone up for a meeting you are attending
- ☆ **Welcome visitors to your church (and don't forget those who regularly attend)**
- ☆ Write a note of encouragement to someone who is going through a challenging time

While these ideas are different from entertaining in your home, they are about showing hospitality to others.

**True hospitality is making others feel welcome and comfortable no matter if it is in your home or "on the road."**

