



# THE WAYS

---

**MAKE OTHERS AT HOME HERE.** Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

1. What does hospitality mean to you?

**READ Gen. 18:1-8**

1. What stands out to you about the way that Abraham welcomed the 3 men?
2. Do you think it's possible you might also welcome angels? (Heb 12:2)
3. What does the quality of the goods and Abrahams haste communicate to the men?

**Scenario:** In church one Sunday morning, there is a couple that you think you have seen previously and think you might have talked to; but you can't remember their names. It's clear that they aren't fully comfortable at church, but when you see them, you are on your way out the door rushing your kids to hockey practice.

1. What priorities are you juggling in this scenario?
2. What makes you uncomfortable about going up to them?
3. What do you think they need to feel welcome?
4. What do you think you would or should do? Explain.

Churches often feel a tension between being welcoming and growing deep. When we *Make Others at Home Here*, we often focus on how it can help the stranger and visitor, but it is a blessing to the church as well. Just as Abraham welcomed angels, we welcome people who bring depth of insight and diversity of opinion which helps us grow deeper as well. *Make Others at Home Here* because when you do, you not only give an opportunity for others to know God through our Church, but you provide our church the opportunity to know God through them.

**PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray the Spirit would give you an opportunity to welcome a new person into our church family.)

## DAILY Devotional

**MONDAY:** *READ:* 1 Tim. 5:10. *THINK:* This list describes a women who is to be made a leader of the church but we should extend that list to any leader. Hospitality is central. Imagine if that is what we were known by, that we welcome people. The mark of a faithful christian is to be a person who looks to *Make Others at Home Here*. *PRAY:* the Spirit would be at work in your own heart to grow a desire for hospitality.

**TUESDAY:** *READ:* Titus 1:8. *THINK:* Again on the list of necessary qualities to be found found in an elder, we find hospitality. There is a certain “first shall be last” quality to affirm that leaders must be willing to welcome anyone and everyone. When we *Make Others at Home Here* we put ourselves in *PRAY:* that the Spirit would reveal how your pride gets in the way.

**WEDNESDAY:** *READ:* Luke 14:13-14. *THINK:* When we *Make Others at Home Here*, race or riches should make no difference. We might be naturally drawn to the people who are like us or people who we are impressed by, but that's not what home is about. You feel at home when you are comfortable and welcomed no matter how you look or what state you are in. *PRAY:* God would give you opportunities to welcome someone who doesn't feel welcomed.

**THURSDAY:** *READ:* 1 Peter 4:9. *THINK:* *Making Others at Home Here* is not always easy. Sometimes it involves staying late when you would rather be home or putting in energy when you are drained. It's easy to lose sight of the bigger plan you are a part of. When you *Make Others at Home Here*, you extend the grace and welcome of God and invite them into a community where they can know Him. *PRAY:* God you give you the energy to practice Hospitality at FPC.

**FRIDAY:** *READ:* Lev. 19:33-34. *THINK:* Ever since high school there has been an in-crowd and an out-crowd. Sadly, church can be no different. There is an innate desire to form a closed group because it's comfortable and its safe. When you *Make Others at Home Here*, you risk them changing your home but you also see new life brought to the church through them. *PRAY:* the Spirit would give you eyes to see how people are left out at FPC.

**SATURDAY:** *READ:* Rom 15:7. *THINK:* You aren't welcomed by God because of your accomplishments and goodness. You are welcomed by Him because while you were still a sinner Jesus died for you. When you were distant and in rebellion Jesus reached out to you. When you *Make Others at Home Here* you get to extend Christ's welcome to people who need it. *PRAY:* God would increase your understanding of what He has done for you.