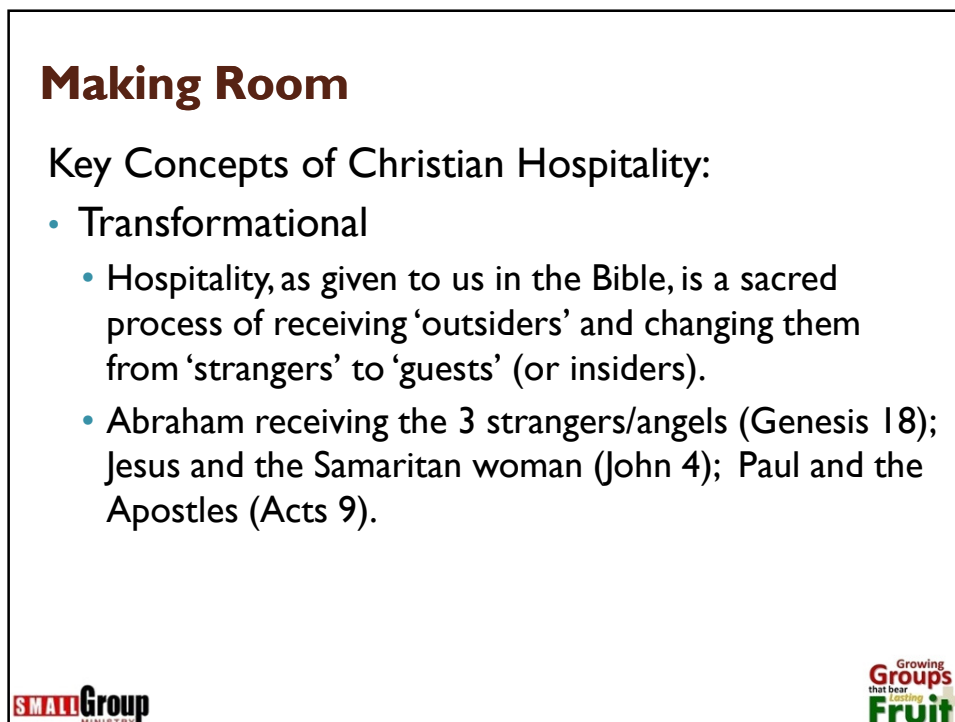




Making Room

Key Concepts of Christian Hospitality:

- Transformational
 - Hospitality, as given to us in the Bible, is a sacred process of receiving 'outsiders' and changing them from 'strangers' to 'guests' (or insiders).
 - Abraham receiving the 3 strangers/angels (Genesis 18); Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4); Paul and the Apostles (Acts 9).



Making Room

Key Concepts of Christian Hospitality:

- Communal
 - Hospitality is meant as a practice/command applicable to all Christians, and not just to a select few.
 - “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9); “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13).



Making Room

Key Concepts of Christian Hospitality:

- Ethical
 - Hospitality involves right practice – that of meeting needs.
 - “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:44-45); Care for the poor, widowed and orphaned (Galatians 2:10, James 1:27).



Making Room

Key Concepts of Christian Hospitality:

- Incarnational
 - Jesus came into our world to invite and lead us into God's presence.
 - 'Word became Flesh' (John 1:1-18); The Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-29, Luke 22:14-20).

SMALLGroup
MINISTRY

Growing
Groups
that bear
lasting
Fruit

Making Room

Key Concepts of Christian Hospitality:

- A Mark of Kingdom Living
 - Believers are, all, citizens of the new Kingdom, sharing lives together, 'feasting' in His goodness.
 - The early believers sharing everything they had as the apostles' ministered (Acts 4:32-37); Banquet motif of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 22, Luke 13.20, 14.15, Revelations 19).

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Making Room

Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 1st 3 Centuries
 - The household is the most important locations for hospitality.
 - Hospitality in early Christian households included believers from different political, ethnic and socioeconomic background.
 - Hospitality included shared meals and shared living.



Making Room

Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 4th and 5th Centuries
 - Hospitality locations expanded beyond the household to include specialized institutions like hostels, hospitals and monasteries.
 - Hospitality grew to being able to provide care for the larger society and to do so in a more systematic manner.



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Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 4th and 5th Centuries
 - More institutionalized care would lead to a beginning of a less personalized form of Christian hospitality being practiced and the fading of the church as a significant place for hospitality.



Making Room

Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 6th Century Onwards
 - Institutionalized care grew to such importance that they mostly took over the social aspect of Christian hospitality.
 - Such social aspect gradually came to fall under the responsibility of the public sphere rather than the church or Christian households.



Making Room

Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 6th Century Onwards
 - Households, particularly rich ones, became largely concerned with the personal welcome and entertainment aspects of hospitality.

Making Room

Short History of Christian Hospitality:

- 18th Century
 - John Wesley and the early Methodists sought to recapture the 'spirit' of early Christian hospitality.
 - While not rejecting institutionalized care, they emphasized smaller institutions and close personal care of Christians.