

SOUL TRAINING

Hospitality

Based on James Bryan Smith's "The Good and Beautiful Life"

The Beatitudes invite marginalized people into the kingdom of God, and hospitality can help us practice this essential aspect of the kingdom: God cares deeply about those who are left out. The kingdom is inclusive, but the world we live in is exclusive. And if we are honest, we likely are more exclusive than inclusive in our own lives. Try to do two or three of the following suggestions this week: (1) Reach out to someone outside of your comfort zone. Ask if they want to have coffee or go out for lunch. This might be a coworker you seldom connect with or someone who has few friends. Intentionally connect with someone who is different. Who might that be? (2) Listen to people. Become aware of the people around you and become a great listener. (3) Be a "preparer." Preparing involves doing small things that show you care for other people. (4) Set aside time to spend with the person you love; perhaps even a "date night" with your significant other. (5) Welcome others into your "group." Quite often we spend time in cliques, our usual group of friends at work or in our personal life. And there are others who would like to spend time with you and your friends but feel uninvited. This week invite them!