Giving and Receiving Hospitality Lesson Plans
Theme: Games

1. Teacher Preparation: As you and your group discover this faith practice of hospitality, encourage the learners to assist one another, making certain each learner’s opinions are valued. You will experience hospitality in your midst by practicing active listening and participation, from oldest to youngest, including Shepherds and workshop teachers as well as students. The faith practice of hospitality models and teaches us ways to open our hearts to one another’s differences, no matter what our background and age, as we listen and work together. A student’s entire body and brain are engaged in playing games.

God is teaching you through the students you had in this workshop, look forward to what future students will teach you, too!

2. Shepherd: Bring children to one of the following classrooms located in fellowship hall:
   - 9/22 Grade 2-3 Room 3
   - 9/29 Grade 4-6 Room 4 or 5
   - 10/6 Grade K-1 Room 2

(Please review the classroom room map located on the website & in the foyer of fellowship hall.)

3. Teacher: Begin with by introducing yourself to the students and take attendance. Remind them that they are learning about giving and receiving hospitality.

4. Teacher: Read Genesis 18: versus 1-15. Read this Bible verse to grades 2-3 (grade K-1 does not have a passage for this theme). Ask for a few volunteers in grades 4-6 to read the verse aloud for the others. **There are bibles located in each classroom. Below is a sample of the passage:

1 The LORD appeared again to Abraham while he was camped near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day about noon, as Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent, 2 he suddenly noticed three men standing nearby. He got up and ran to meet them, welcoming them by bowing low to the ground. 3 "My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. 4 Rest in the shade of this tree while my servants get some water to wash your feet. 5 Let me prepare some food to refresh you. Please stay awhile before continuing on your journey.""All right," they said. "Do as you have said." 6 So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Get three measures of your best flour, and bake some bread." 7
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5. Activities:

♦ Grade K-1  “Web of Caring”

Supplies: A ball of yarn
The goal is to toss the ball of yarn back and forth around the circle, never throwing to the same person who threw to you or to the person you threw to last time. Have each student call out the student’s name they are going to throw it to. This will reinforce each student’s name to one another. Each time you catch the ball, hold onto a piece of the yarn and keep holding on as you throw the ball and ask the learners to look at the web they’ve made. If each throw of the yarn was an act of hospitality, then we’d be tied together in a web of caring.

♦ Grade K-1  “Imagine a Birthday Party” (if time permits)
Invite the group to pretend that today is your (the teacher’s) birthday and that they will give you pretend gifts. Take a moment for everyone to close their eyes and think about what they are going to give.

♦ Grade 2-3  “Show Hospitality”

Supplies: small pieces of paper & pens
Invite everyone to sit down a little apart from everyone else. Have them close their eyes and think about times when someone has offered them hospitality. Give examples, such as a friend offering a glass of water or a popsicle, or someone welcoming them to a new neighborhood. Ask them to think about times they offered hospitality to someone, such as when they’ve invited someone to sit with them at lunch or join in playing a game. Distribute paper & pens. Allow several minutes for each learner to write the name of someone to whom they will offer hospitality this week. Fold the paper, and put it in a pocket, and ask them to share this with their parents or caregiver after church today. Discuss how Abraham showed his hospitality & what Jesus.

♦ Grade 4-6  “Foot Washing”

Supplies: Bowl, water & towel
Have the 2-3 students gather in a group. Provide each group with a bowl, water & towel. One student will play the part of Jesus and one student will play the part of Peter. Ask the students to remove their shoes & socks. Beginning with the student who is playing Peter (Peter’s refusal, then enthusiastic acceptance), wash the feet of the student.

➢ Remind the students that in Jesus’ day, people wore open sandals and the roads were dirty and dusty, not paved. It was a sign of hospitality to offer someone water to clean their feet as they entered your home.

➢ Ask the students how they felt when their feet were washed. Did they feel special? Uncomfortable?
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➢ Point out that a respected person, such as a teacher or preacher like Jesus, would never do this job. Jesus’ actions were radical!

6. Right before moving up to the Parlor for singing rehearsal, gather the kids to listen to the closing prayer from the Workshop Rotation material:

*Loving God, help us to reach out with hospitality to people in our lives. And help us to rely on our parents and other adults in reaching out to others in this world with Your love. Amen*