

Giving and Hoping

The Innkeeper

The character of the innkeeper only appears in the bible stories by implication, yet is a popular figure in our traditional Christmas story and school nativity plays.
He brings to mind the importance of hospitality, shelter and welcome.

Welcome

- What do we mean by hospitality?
- What hospitality do we offer to others?

Word:

Luke 2 4-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Romans 12:13
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.



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Word (Cont)

- The Bible speaks about hospitality in many different ways. Spend time listing some and suggest how hospitality was offered.
- Many believe that the word 'inn' here just means the upper, habitable part of a house. Was the 'innkeeper' offering hospitaity or rejecting a pregnant, unmarried woman?
- Is providing hospitality a form of giving?
- What hospitality do we offer to others and why?

Worship

Listen to 'Make Room' by Casting Crowns. The song asks the question, 'is there room in your heart for God to write his story? Reflect on that question and consider what that might mean

Help us to meet the challenge of being true Christians by offering hospitality to all.

May we seek to deepen fellowship by drawing all people into the light of Christ.

Witness

How might you show hospitality this week?

Hymns

When I Needed a Neighbour

Once in Royal David's City