

Leader Guide

Radical Hospitality: Love God: Gratitude

Date: September 23, 2020

Big Idea: Our model of radical welcome and hospitality comes from God who created the universe and us out of sheer love.

Guide Pro Tips

1. God created the universe and humanity good.
2. Creation is good. God said so. (the people, well, we'll talk about them/us).
3. God created a planet that was exactly tuned to make human beings flourish, along with literally millions and millions of species. That is literally hospitality at its best.
4. BTW: God did not make the earth in 6 literal days. Lutherans are pretty sure that God is bigger than science and could totally use science to create the universe!
5. Our model for hospitality is God, who made this planet for us to thrive on. Our response to God is gratitude.

Gathering and Centering

Tonight, hopefully, most of us are in person. As we gather please remember to **maintain social distance and wear masks**. Students should bring their own seating. Have hand sanitizer on hand if possible.

Please take attendance. There will not be a google document for them to fill in tonight since we are in person (mostly). Please email Anne who attended.

As we center, use one of tealights from the swag bags, or a real candle as a focus. Encourage students to center themselves for a ***full minute*** (we did 45 seconds last week). Encourage folks to sit comfortably, relax their shoulders, take a deep breathe and just focus on their breathing.

Introduction to the Big Idea

Tonight, there is no movie since we are in person.

Start the conversation with highs and lows. Once everyone has had a chance to share their highs and lows...

Ask students to share things they are grateful for. Make the list as long and as funny and/or serious as you want.

Remind students that gratitude should be our first response to God.

Conversation Starter

Since most of you are outside, ask anyone who is zooming in to go outside if they can. Sit on their porch or in the backyard (maybe even take a walk...).

Ask the students what they notice about this evening; how's the weather? What's it like to be outside?

What are they grateful for about creation?

Remind them that creation is exactly the way it is because God created it so we could thrive (no, not in seven days, but through the Big Bang theory, and evolution, and plate tectonics and science in general. God is big enough to have used all those!)

Ask them what putting our gratitude for creation into action look like?

Journal Question

How do you feel when you are out in nature? Is there an activity you particularly love? What in creation tells you that God made it good?