

# The Power of Intentional Hospitality

REACHING ISRAEL FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

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## THE JEWISH PEOPLE: WHY BE CONCERNED?

By prioritizing Jewish evangelism we participate in God's plan to bring blessings to all the families of the earth!

### **The Mission of God: Bless the nations!**

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 26:4

Genesis 28:14

### **The Plan of God: "To the Jew first"**

Romans 1:16 - Historical or theological?

Why the Jews?

Paul's Strategy

Past Blessings through the Jewish People

Future Blessings through the Jewish People

## HOSPITALITY AS A MINISTRY: IT JUST MAKES SENSE!

### **The Hospitable Body**

The Ministry of Hospitality is Simple

The Ministry of Hospitality is Scriptural

The Ministry of Hospitality is Strategic

### **The Opportunity**

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2.

3.

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10.

## **The Models**

## **The Results**

## WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HOSPITALITY

### Biblical Examples of Hospitality

**What do you observe about these narratives? Consider:**

- the circumstances that led to the hospitality offered
- the current condition of the host and the guest
- how the hosts and guests related to one another
- the personal challenges they faced
- how the Lord intervened in each situation

1Kings 17:7-24

Acts 28:1-11

## Biblical Lessons Concerning Hospitality

What do these stories teach us about the *importance* of providing hospitality?

What do these stories teach us about the *challenge* of providing hospitality?

What do you glean from the following passages regarding the ministry of hospitality?

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Matthew 25:31-46

1 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:7,8

Hebrews 13:1,2

1 Peter 4:7-9

1 John 3:16-18

# UNDERSTANDING & MINISTERING TO THE ISRAELI SOUL

## How Jews Differ from Christians

**A Different View of God's Relationship to Mankind**

**A Different Purpose for Religion**

**A Different View of Taboos**

## How Jews Differ from Jews (Based on Dellapegalo Model)

Type	Normative	Ethical-Communal	Cultural-Residual	Zero-Jewish
Size	2 million	6 million	4 million	1 million
Jewish Engagement	Religious	Traditional	Identified	Disengaged
Affiliation	Religiously Affiliated	Ethically Affiliated	Culturally Affiliated	Non-affiliated
Appeal	Prayer and apologetics	Emphasise Jewish Roots & Testimonials	Emphasise Jewish Roots & Testimonials	Use non-Jewish terms and tools
Worship Style	Torah Observant	Mainstream Messianic	Philo-Semitic Church	Postmodern Evangelical Church

## Hosting Israelis: Some Practical Insights

### Family Life

- Many are homesick
- Your children can be disarming
- Consider Israel-friendly home decor
- Learn some Mediterranean recipes
- Involving them in your family will create relational bonds

### Communitas (community formed under shared threat or adversity)

- Resisting Christianity strengthens Jewish community
- We, too, have communitas (“If they hated Me, they will hate you.”)
- Creates opportunities

### Genuineness

- They can sense phony spirituality
- Unveil. Be completely honest
- Don’t try to “be Jewish” or keep Jewish tradition if only to impress
- Phoniness makes them suspicious
- Relax. Don’t push.
- Ask sympathetic questions without feeling obligated to talk about the Bible or faith-related issues
- Remember that you are part of a chain of spiritual events in this person’s life.

### Conversation is Sacred

- Israelis are, for the most part, social & intellectual/philosophical
- You will not offend by sharing your beliefs; rather, you will stimulate
- “Report” your beliefs rather than “impose” them

### The Favoured Topic: Israel

- Ask questions about Israel
- Avoid being perceived as merely a Zionist
- Discussions about Israel lead easily and naturally to Biblical prophecies.  
Ask: Did you know that things happening in modern Israel were foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures thousands of years ago?
  - The re-establishment of the State of Israel (Isa. 11:12; Jer. 16:14,15)
  - The rebuilding of the waste cities (Amos 9:14,15)
  - The blossoming of the desert like a rose (Isa. 35:1)
  - The restoration of Hebrew as a spoken language (Zeph. 3:9)

## **House Rules - State Them Clearly!**

You have every right to set limits, but you must be clear. State any non-negotiable limitations in your host profile (online) and be prepared to share them with your guests. Examples:

- Unmarried couples, together or separate?
- Noise curfew
- Access to particular rooms or facilities (e.g., laundry, kitchen)
- Tobacco, drugs, alcohol

## **Sacrificial Ministry**

- Don't do it without a sense of calling or vision
- Some of the younger Israelis are extremely spontaneous
- Some are a bit spoiled
- If you're easily disappointed or offended, hosting is not for you

## **Your Reasons for Hosting**

- Why are you doing this?
- Articulate your reasons clearly

## **Prepare Resources**

- They will have needs. Help by locating an honest, sympathetic
  - Car salesman
  - Auto mechanic
  - Nurse/Doctor
  - Legal assistant

## **Prepare Answers**

- Some important questions will surface regularly. It's a good idea to think about them and prepare an accurate and honest response
  - Why is Israel important to you?
  - How can you be Jewish and believe in Jesus?

## **The Golden Rule: Get Contact Information!**

- No contact info = lost opportunities
- How it works: Relationships
  - The Gospel witness begins in your home
  - The Gospel witness continues in their home
  - The bridge between your home and theirs = contact info

## BACKPACKER WORLDVIEW: REVIEWING THE “ISTS”

### Absolutists

### Relativists

### Postmodernists

#### Characteristics:

- Resists truth-telling, invited relationship-building
- More comfortable with open-ended discussions than with goal-oriented equations
- Views Modernism’s obsession with Truth as the force behind social injustice, inhumanity and violence

#### Values:

- The God of Love over the God of Truth
- The right questions over the right answers
- Truthful relationships over Truth-based relationships
- Experiential spirituality over knowledge about God
- Open-ended discussions over goal-oriented equations
- Community over Church
- Tolerance over dogmatism
- Social justice over governing principles
- Authenticity over rightness

Given the values listed above, how might we apply these two texts in such a way as to relate redemptively with members of the Postmodern world?

Coossians 4:5,6

1 Corinthians 9:22b,23

“The best teachers do not merely tell the truth. They create an environment in which truth can be discovered by the learner.” ~ Oletta Wald

When you *tell me* the truth, I am *informed*.

When I *discover* the truth, I am *transformed*.

Truth is most powerfully conveyed in an environment where truth can be discovered.

**How did Jesus create such environments when addressing pre-believers?**

**He told parables/stories.**

**He asked questions.**

## Examples of ways to engage postmodernists based on their values:

### **The God of Love over the God of Truth**

- STORY: Describe a time when you encountered God's love in a way that inspired or transformed you.
- QUESTION: "Has anyone ever loved you unconditionally, regardless of how you behaved or performed? How does that kind of love affect you?"

### **The right questions over the right answers**

- STORY: Dare to share your own unsolved mysteries; your own doubts, questions, fears.
- QUESTION: "If you could ask God anything, what would it be?"

### **Experiential spirituality over knowledge about God**

- STORY: Describe a time when God burst into your natural world in a supernatural way.
- QUESTION: "If there is a God, is he distant or close? Does it matter to you?"

### **Open-ended discussions over goal-oriented equations**

- STORY: Be willing NOT to correct or resolve an idea with which you vehemently disagree.
- QUESTION: "Currently, what gives you a sense of purpose? What inspires you?"

### **Community over Church**

- STORY: Describe a time when you were lovingly confronted and walked away changed for the better.
- QUESTION: "Are you part of a group with whom you feel safe? Is that important to you?"

### **Tolerance over dogmatism**

- STORY: Disclose a time when your own rigid thinking or legalism hurt another person.
- QUESTION: "Do you think there is ever a valid reason to reject the ideas or opinions of another?"

### **Social justice over governing principles**

- STORY: Humbly share a reason why you prefer grace and mercy over 'justice.'
- QUESTION: "You have been given unlimited resources to do one great thing for humanity. What would it be?"

### **Authenticity over rightness**

- STORY: Describe a time when you surrendered the “right to be right” under a loftier goal.
- QUESTION: ASK “What would you say are the marks of a genuine, unhypocritical person?”

## **FUNDAMENTALS CONCERNING JEWISH EVANGELISM**

### **The Gospel from the Hebrew Scriptures**

#### **Everyone suffers from the problem of sin**

- Isaiah 64:6
- Ecclesiastes 7:20

#### **Sin leads to separation**

- Isaiah 59:1,2
- Jeremiah 31:30

#### **God’s program for taking away sin**

- Leviticus 17:11
- Psalms 51:1-3

#### **God’s person for taking away sin**

- Isaiah 53:3-12

#### **The right choice: Faith**

- Genesis 15:1-6
- Habakkuk 2:4

## Expanded Gospel Presentation

### **Something is desperately missing from life.**

*"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind." Eccles. 2:11*

### **God alone is the source of a satisfying and worthwhile life. He is thinking about you, He is concerned for your future, and He deeply loves you.**

*"You will make known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11*

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

*"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you." Jeremiah 31:3*

### **There is a barrier between God and us.**

*"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your GOD, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:1,2*

### **Our mitzvot (good deeds) won't remove the barrier.**

*"And we are all as one that is unclean, and our righteousness [good deeds] as filthy rags...." Isaiah 64:5*

### **God has provided atonement as a way of removing the barrier. Atonement requires blood.**

*"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul." Leviticus 17:11*

### **During temple times in Israel, animal sacrifices provided temporary atonement. Permanent atonement requires a unique sacrifice.**

*"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared me." Psalm 40:4 (Septuagint)*

**The Tanach identifies this sacrifice as a sinless man who was rejected by his people, yet whose death provided the ultimate atonement.**

*"...he was despised, and we esteemed him not...But he was wounded because of our transgressions, bruised because of our iniquities; his sufferings were that we might have peace, and by his injury we are healed...he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth...But he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:3b,5,9b,12b*

**At least 48 specific prophecies further identify this Messianic figure, all of which have been fulfilled in Yeshua of Nazareth.**

- He would be a descendent of King David (Jeremiah 23:5,6)
- He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1,2; 4:8)
- He would have a divine nature (Isaiah 9:5,6)
- He would be a member of a triunity (Isaiah 48:16)
- He would come before the destruction of Herod's temple: 70 CE (Dan. 9:25, 26)
- He needed to die (Isaiah 53)
- He would be executed by crucifixion (Psalm 22:14-17)
- He would rise from the dead (Isaiah 53:10)

**God has provided perfect atonement (forgiveness of sins) through the sacrifice of Yeshua. All who place their trust in Him have restored fellowship with God and assurance of eternal life.**

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name..." John 1:12 (New Covenant)*

**The next step is very, very simple. It has nothing to do with religion; it has everything to do with your heart.**

*"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12,13*

## Messianic Prophecy

### Messiah's Birth

- Born of a Virgin - Isaiah 7:14
- Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2; 4:8

### Messiah's Nature

- Divine - Isaiah 9:6
- Triune - Isaiah 48:16

### Messiah's Death

- *Why* He Would Die - Isaiah 53
- *How* He Would Die - Psalm 22
- *When* He Would Die - Daniel 9:25,26

## Semantic Sensitivity

“Christ”

“Christian”

“Church”

“Old Testament”

## Writing Your Personal Testimony (Paul's Four-Minute Example)

**Paul tells about his life before he became a believer**

Acts 22:3-5; 26:2-11

**Paul tells how he discovered his need to become a believer**

Acts 22:6-9; 26:12-18

**Paul tells how he became a believer**

Acts 22:10-16; 26:19-21

**Paul tells how life has changed since becoming a believer**

Acts 22:17-21; 26:22,23

## RESOURCES

### Online Resources

- [igod.co.il](http://igod.co.il) (Hebrew)
- [oneforisrael.org](http://oneforisrael.org) (English/Hebrew)
- I Found Shalom (English)

### Hebrew Bible Resources

- Biblical vs Modern Hebrew
- Our favourite NT: The Jerusalem City Bible

### Hebrew Gospel Resources

- The Bible Society in Israel
- HaGefen Publishing

### Human Resources

- You
- Us
- Follow Up Team in Israel

## One Host Family's Story: Chris & Margaret Herud

We began hosting Israeli travelers in the summer of 2008 having been encouraged to do so by friends who have hosted for many years. We met some of their visitors and felt the call from the Lord to do so ourselves. We had no idea what to expect and what was expected of us, and for the first couple of years, we concentrated on not offending our lovely young visitors.

We found that if we made a mistake or said the wrong thing the Israelis were more than willing to forgive and correct us. They were not offended and were very grateful for the opportunity to stay in our home. We tried to be available for them when they woke up, feeling we needed to serve breakfast. So, there was some tension for us as we tried to work out how to get on with the farm work at the same time as hosting.

The way we have got around this tension is to be far more relaxed ourselves. With visitors in the house, it is not possible to be absolutely free to do what you want on the farm when you want to, but if no one is up in the morning, we get on with our work and tell them to make themselves at home in the kitchen. We encourage our visitors to sleep in as late as they like, to relax and to do what they feel like doing.

Margaret at first tried to provide meals which proved stressful as she didn't know how many would be there for dinner each night, and who would be eating meat or not, or who would not be able to eat meat and dairy together. Many Israelis are not worried by any of those things, but because there might be issues, Margaret had to consider these things when planning the meals. The grapevine works very efficiently, and word got around that if they came to us, they wouldn't need to bring any food as the meals were provided.

The way we have got around this problem is that we tell them on the phone when they ring that they should bring their own food as we live on a farm away from the shops. They then realise that they will be cooking for themselves, and they expect to do this. If they stay a second and third night, we talk about sharing a meal together and work out who will cook what, and this is an exciting time for them, as they LOVE to cook for us. Sometimes we ask if they would like to do the whole meal that night and we always get an enthusiastic "Yes!" and there is much talking and planning over what they will cook for us.

We try to join with the Israelis in their celebration of the holidays and encourage them to cook or bake their holiday food for us all to eat. This Purim we showed them a wardrobe with various clothes, jackets, hats etc and said they could use whatever they liked. They came through all dressed up, singing a Purim song and gave us a beautiful hamper of sweet goodies for us to enjoy.

We also had to work out how many Israelis we could host at a time. We have beds for 4 people and often we are asked if they can come and sleep in their cars if we are full. One night we had 9 people staying in beds, on mattresses and in their cars, and we realised that that was too many.

We have found that if the group is too large the Israelis end up speaking to each other in Hebrew and we are not included. We don't have hard and fast rules about it but we try not to have more than 5 – that means 2 groups of 2 and 3 can come and one person will be on the floor on a mattress. If someone rings wanting to come and stay in their car we explain that we are trying to give our visitors a quality experience with us and this doesn't happen if there are too many people staying. They usually understand instantly and thank us very much.

Our goal is to make the Israelis feel at home from the moment they arrive, and the Lord has given us a couple of ideas that have worked very well. At the bottom of our driveway, we have put a small Israeli flag on either side of our letterbox so they feel confident they have arrived at the right driveway out in the country. We have named the property En Gedi – Place of Refreshing, and the visitors see this sign as they approach the top of the driveway, and as they round the bend, they see 2 flag poles with a New Zealand and Israel flag flying. They all tell us that those 3 things make such a difference as they approach a strange house, wondering who will be coming out to meet them. We make a point of giving them all a big hug on arrival and many have said in the visitor's book that the hug helped them to know it was going to be OK at this place.

We are just completing our 4th summer of hosting Israelis and we feel a lot more confident. We find that mealtimes are a great time for talking and that is often where we discuss our faith in the Jewish Messiah and tell them of Yeshua's love for them, and the gospel message. Margaret likes to tell them about our own journey of discovery as we have found out how Jewish the New Testament is and the fact that just about every NT author was Jewish. These things were such a surprise to us when we discovered them, and the Israelis are not aware of these things either. Chris enjoys speaking about the history of Israel and the prophecies that have been fulfilled and what is yet to come.

We don't push anything and wait until an opening comes naturally. For those who don't give any opening, we love them and enjoy them. We realise that we are sowing seeds and we may never know how God uses these seeds in years to come as these young Israelis encounter life in Israel and around the world.

It is a privilege and a joy to serve the Lord in this way and we often marvel that He has chosen us for this ministry. We pray the convicting work of the Holy Spirit to water the thoughts and ideas we have spoken of with Israelis over the years.

## Tips from a Hosting Veteran

- Have a sign outside the house that they recognise as Jewish so that they know they have reached the right place. We use a small Israeli flag on the letterbox.
- Greet with a warm smile and a big hug.
- Have a picture of somewhere in Israel or something Jewish that they will ask you about. They are very curious why Gentiles would welcome them into their home, and this encourages discussion on why we host Israelis.
- Ask about their families, their family origins and their plans for the future.
- We find it better not to have too many rules – we want them to feel at home.  
Some pressure points are:
  - Israelis tend to cook late and go to bed late, so we establish cooking times and ask for quiet when we go to bed.
  - They often sleep till 10 am so any plans for the day need to be made the night before.
  - Understand some are quite sociable and want to interact the moment you arrive home. If you need a bit of time on your own, just let them know.
- Laundry and internet facilities are appreciated.
- If it is possible to share a meal with them, we find this to be the most productive time to have input into their lives.
- Just relax and not be too worried about anything – they aren't.
- Have some resources to support the discussions. For example, some simple material on prophecy, or a good short DVD. We have some Hebrew New Testaments, as well.
- Time with your guests is the important thing – they love being part of the family.
- We are on a rural property and the Israelis love to come and help on the farm or in the vegetable garden.
- Take a photo of each group and print it on ordinary paper. They enjoy writing their comments and decorating the page with bright colours. They love to look through the album and see who has been here before them.
- We don't charge anything for their stay, and this makes a huge impression on them if you are able to do that. Some hosts do charge a minimal amount to cover costs.

## NEXT STEPS

**Pray**

**Partner**

**Participate**