Bible Study on Hospitality By Linda Garcia Fairbanks, AK Corps - Alaska Division

I wanted to accurately define hospitality: Hospitality is action and affection, receiving and loving a stranger.

I grew up seeing this displayed in my family. My paternal grandmother always had a pot of beans on the stove, a large Tupperware bowl full of homemade flour tortillas on top of the refrigerator or continually making them fresh this was all day every day ready for anyone or everyone that stepped into her home whether it be family, friend or stranger.

The Bible points out numerous forms of hospitality which is very important-

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

- How would you describe your willingness to help others in need. Would you describe yourself as being eager?
- If someone is eager to practice hospitality, how is that demonstrated in their life? Do you know someone who could be described as eager to practice hospitality?

I remember as a very young girl spending a lot of time with my maternal grandparents, it was really my second home. This one particular summer I was probably 5 years old I would go outside to play in the front yard and there would be one or two men passed out by the bushes I run into the house to tell Gramma and she would calmly send Grampa out with a cup of coffee and water to let them know it was time to move on. There was a cantina/bar across the street to the left of their house. They never mistreated anyone, but it was an opportunity for Grampa to share a cup of coffee and sometimes pray for them.

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9

• How does grumbling impact our hospitality? How does grumbling affect our Christian witness? What are we communicating to others by grumbling?

The practice of hospitality is Christ-like. It is an offering of our time and company to others."] The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 reaches out her hand to the needy. She cared about others!

• **Read Proverbs 31:10-31**. Note how this woman showed hospitality. What did she do? How did she respond? What do you learn about hospitality from this woman?

Ladies whether you have a woman's Group in your home or at church hospitality is how God wants us to share his love with everyone. Be intentional as you prepare a meal, snacks, and God's Word that you will share with those who enter your home. Pray for each woman that comes to your group meeting, make sure to lift them up in prayer daily as you journey with them.

I have to be honest, being hospitable didn't come naturally for me even though I saw it growing up. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I have learned to open my home to those I may not of opened up my home to in the past.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

- How can you be more intentional in showing hospitality this week?
- Who can you show hospitality to?