



Hospitality under the oak tree

AT A GLANCE



Bible

Genesis 18:1–8



Topic

Welcoming strangers



Takeaway

Being open to newcomers in the group



8 minutes



Object: a cup of tea or water



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic “Welcoming strangers”. Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Offer someone in the circle a cup. Ask: When did you last feel truly welcome?

2 min

Bible text

Read Genesis 18:1–8. At midday, in the heat, three strangers arrive. Abraham runs to meet them and offers water, shade and a feast.

3 min

Thought

Abraham does not know who is coming – later it turns out that God himself is meeting him. How do we treat newcomers in the group, or those who are different or quieter? Hospitality starts small: remembering names, making room, asking questions.

2 min

Conversation

Who might be feeling like a stranger in our group right now?



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Prayer to read aloud

God, you often meet us in strangers. Open our group and my heart to people who are new or different. Amen.



To think further

- Hebrews 13:2 says that some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. What does that sentence stir in you?



For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.
- Encourage them to say the prayer themselves – the written prayer gives confidence.



Section: Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.