

What Makes a Home Accessible for Connection and Growth?

by Kit Coons



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“Thanks for your help tonight,” I said as we put the chairs away. “I thought the group really enjoyed the discussion.”

“That’s for sure,” my husband, Drew responded. “They’ll have lots to talk about when they do their couples’ project this week.”

Drew and I have hosted hundreds of marriage-oriented Bible studies in our home. The felt need for marriage brings many who are unsure of their relationship with God and unfamiliar with the Bible.

Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary said, “You make an impression on people from a distance. You make an **impact** on people when you get up close.”

Showing hospitality through marriage groups in our home gave us the opportunity to impact those couples.

The effect of hospitality

Hospitality demonstrates to people *how important they are* to you. When people associate you with God, then you’ve demonstrated His love to them. Extending hospitality to those who need Christ builds a trust relationship. When they experience the Scriptures improving their lives, they are ready to believe what the Bible says about Jesus.

Many husbands are wary of religious programs—especially ones that might expose their deficiencies. So, I hosted women’s studies for their wives.



relationships and some came to know Jesus Christ.

Occasionally our group would have purely social activities such as Christmas dinner parties, backyard volleyball, and picking fruit in our small orchard. There Drew would intentionally get to know the husbands, perhaps over a couple of years.

Then Drew would personally phone the husband with an invitation to a group in our home. To our surprise, every husband invited came to a Bible study with his wife. All were impacted by this “get up close” hospitality. Most experienced improved

Hospitality to adults with children

Our first home had a large park-like yard. Nearly a hundred adults and children—neighbors, co-workers, friends—came to our initial Easter egg hunt. After all the eggs and goodies had been collected, we had a few activities for the children and served dessert. Ten years later about 300 guests attended annually. By then women voluntarily brought dishes for Saturday morning brunch. Friends with whom we stay in touch report that their grown children still talk about the hunts. We established influential relationships with the parents and, without children of our own, received the opportunity to be grandparents.



nothing is as valuable to God as those children.

Our next home included a 1.2-acre lake. Drew stocked the lake with fish and started inviting parents to bring their kids to “Catch-a-Fish.” Hundreds of children caught fish usually within the first few minutes of arriving. Many of the fish weighed ten to fifteen pounds. Catching big fish was a lot of fun for entire families.

When you practice hospitality that includes children, be prepared for the unexpected. Don’t limit hospitality to families with well-behaved children. Even if the activity is outside, many children will need to go inside to the bathroom. Some will feel free to explore your home. Drawers or closets may be opened, items may be broken. Be careful to secure keepsakes. And remember that

Our lake also gave us a way to be hospitable to over a hundred non-American Cru staff and special guests of FamilyLife. Since most lived in major cities, few of them had ever fished. Frequently Drew would clean the fish they caught and cook them for their dinner in our home. This hospitality helped to establish close relationships with our partners.

The best hospitality requires effort

We always welcomed drop-in guests, a custom we learned serving with Cru in Africa. But the best hospitality results in a memorable experience. That takes some preparation.

We worked hard organizing events and managing the fishing lake. This was our opportunity to sacrifice our convenience for those for whom Jesus died.



We always try to walk our guests to their cars and send something home with them. Baked goods, produce from our garden or orchard, books we author, and even fresh fish. But the most important carry-away is a happy and pleasant memory. God can use that memory in our guest's lives. And we cherish the memories of the joy they experienced.

"You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God." – 3 John 1:6

What are some simple ways or practices you use to make sure your guests feel seen, comfortable, and loved?

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Kit and Drew Coons have been married for 40 years. They met as Cru staff in Nigeria and later served in the U.S. and New Zealand with [FamilyLife](#).

Kit and Drew are authors of [The Challenge Series](#) – five wholesome seeker-friendly novels; [The Ambassadors](#) – A scientific tale seemingly taken from today's headlines; and six [biblical life-skills books](#) on difficult topics. Their newest and best seller, especially among non-believers, is *Missionary and the Witch*. The thrilling and authentic story is about Christians battling evil spirits in Transylvania according to Ephesians 6:12. For a free electronic copy contact the Coonses through their website, <https://morethanordinarylives.com/>, or email at [kitcoons@comcast.net](mailto:kitcoons@comcast.net).