



## House of Blessing!

A house of blessing is not only for guest, but family members as well. Everyone should feel loved, welcomed, accepted. Let's blessings overflow so that inhabitants and guests are lavished with kindness!

*“We have wanted a home where guests feel like family, but family members feel like honored guests.”* —Emilee Barnes

(Welcome Home: Creating Your Own Place of Beauty and Love pg. 8;  
Harvest House Publishers; 1997)

### Humility

True hospitality is not about impressing guest. In a house of blessing, guests are welcomed because they are liked and wanted. Masks come off, and real people with real flaws interact with each other. There is love and acceptance flowing because Jesus accepts us, we accept one another.



### Good Manners

*“I grew up in the land of hospitality—the South. I’m now a grandmother, so I’m old enough to remember polite manners, good home-cooked food, Sunday dinner—that’s lunch for those not raised in the South—starched linens and fine*

*china on the table, and the family's best for company. Company came frequently and almost every woman knew how to entertain well.* --Marilyn Rockett

(Homeschooling at the Speed of Life pg. 146; B & H Publishing; 2007)

A lost art in our day, manners were invented to make people feel comfortable, so that there would be some agreed upon protocol that would enable people to know what to expect from one another. Nowadays, rudeness is the norm, not politeness. But our Bible tells us that love “is not rude” (I Corinthians 13:5). Refresh your manners by reading a book on manners and putting it into practice. What if you never learned polite protocol? Well, it’s never too late.

Here are some basics for polite hospitality!

1. Welcome guests and say goodbye to guests with your full attention. All family members should stop what they are doing to greet guests, or say good-bye, at the door. Remember to always rise in the presence of older people; children should rise in the presence of adults.
2. Each family member should learn to make proper introductions and “small talk.” Men are introduced to woman first (“Mary, this is John; John, this is Mary”) and younger people to older (Aunt Betsy, this is Fred; Fred, this is my Aunt Bessie”).
3. Offer guests something cold or hot to drink when they arrive, even if they’re not visiting for a meal. Anyone who walks through your front door should be offered a drink.
4. Put your napkin in your lap and keep your elbows off the table.
5. Do not burp, or worse, at the table. If it sneaks out, quickly say, “Excuse me, please.”
6. Unless it’s a buffet, don’t start eating until everyone has been served. The hostess should take the first bite, signaling that everyone else can begin eating.
7. If there’s not enough food, family members should “hold back” without bringing any attention to the fact that they are doing so.
8. Learn the art of asking questions. Allow guests to talk about themselves or things that interest them. Stay attentive.

*“People never visit Jenny’s house without feeling loved and welcome. They never leave without feeling she’s sorry to see them go. The first impressions and the last impressions in Jenny’s home reflect her beautiful heart of hospitality. She says she learned it growing up, but I know she is constantly teaching me.”*

*—Emilee Barnes (about her daughter!)*

(Welcome Home: Creating Your Own Place of Beauty and Love pg. 31;  
Harvest House Publishers; 1997)

## Create Memories & Reminisce

Think in terms of creating memories for you families in friends. Playing a game that everyone enjoys or serving a favorite dish will go a long way in honoring guest and creating memories. When you have known people a long time reminisce about things you have done together in the past. Shared memories cement relationships.



## Laughter

***“All the days of the oppressed are wretched,  
but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.”***

Proverbs 15:15 (New International Version)

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The laughing family has a continual party! They live life with exploding joy! Life is lived to the fullest, every moment seen as a treasure to enjoy! This is the heritage for all of those families who love and serve Jesus. We don't take ourselves too seriously, though we take serving Jesus very seriously. We can laugh at our mistakes because we have learned to be humble. We tell jokes and family stories that make us giggle. Sometimes we laugh so hard that we cannot catch our breath. Happy hearts make a happy home! Have fun with your family and have fun with your guests.

## Appreciation

The secret of genuine contentment is thankfulness. Show appreciation to one another and your guests. Thank them for all the things they do for you and others. Be grateful for who God made them to be. There is nothing more wonderful than to have, what you do, noticed and appreciated!

Receive appreciation from those who experience your blessing. They will be grateful and want to bless you back. Don't say, "It was nothing." Instead say, "It was such fun to have you over!" or "It was my pleasure!"



## A Home that Says “Welcome to my World!”

Your house can be a place that is a blessing to its inhabitants and visitors. Hang pretty welcome wreath on your front door and put a pretty mat down for guests to wipe their feet. Or you could hang a welcome flag above the door. Keep the light on at night so that the doorway is highly visible. Keep your lawn and