**Hospitality**

*Leader’s Guide*

**Opening Activity**

Split up into groups of 2 or 3. Tell everyone that in their groups, they are going to be planning a big party. First have them decide what kind of party they are going to throw (ie. birthday, wedding, bar mitzvah, anniversary, etc, etc). Next each person is going to take turns in the group saying what they think should be included at the party. So one person would say “I think there should be…(whatever their idea is)”. Someone else in the group must respond with “Yes, but…(tell why that idea won’t work)”. Then that person says what they think should be included and another person responds with “Yes, but…”

After about 3 minutes, stop and ask people what this experience is like.

Now, repeat the exercise again except this time when someone responds to an idea, they must say “Yes, and…(add onto the idea they are responding to)”. And do that for another. So for example…

*Person #1: I think there should be a glowing dance floor at the party*

*Person #2: Yes, and I think everyone should be given glow in the dark hats to wear*

*Person #3: Yes, and their should be a smoothie bar so people can refresh themselves when they get tired and hot from dancing*

*\*so on and so on and so on\**

After 3 minutes, stop and ask people what this experience was like. How did it compare with the first exercise?

**Stories That Shape Us**

There was a TV show that ran for over 30 years called Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood. Fred Rogers created and hosted the children’s show – he was also an ordained Presbyterian minister who saw his show as a ministry to kids all over the country. Watch the brief video clip of Fred Rogers and Jeff Erlanger:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USWXF1XW2zo>

**Questions for Conversation**

* In what ways did you notice Fred Rogers extending hospitality to Jeff Erlanger? How did his words and body language express a welcoming presence to Jeff?
* What did you notice about the song that Jeff and Fred sang together? How were the words welcoming or hospitable?
* Jeff had a medical/physical condition which left him confined to a wheel chair for most of his life. Outside of his encounter with Mr. Rogers, do you imagine Jeff experienced the same kind of hospitality and welcome that he did on the show?
* How are our communities setup to be welcoming and accessible to people with physical disabilities? In what ways to you notice hospitality for people with disabilities? In what ways do you see a *lack* of hospitality for people with disabilities?

**Bring It Together**

* What parts of this week’s reading did you really resonate with? What was a question that it inspired in you?
* Which parts of the reading connected with the video of Jeff and Mr. Rogers?

**Closing Activity**

Each group will be provided a piece of poster board about the size of a door mat. Together, groups will need to design a door mat that they believe communicates/extends radical hospitality to those who come to the door. In their conversation, have them also decide where they would place their welcome mat. In other words, what space or place do they feel needs to be more welcoming to outsiders? After groups have completed their mats, have them present to one another and share about their creations.