



Lesson 13

February 28, 2021

Showing Generous Hospitality

In today's lesson, Lydia was hospitable and generous. After her conversion, she invited Paul and his traveling companions to reside at her home and even offered her home as the place for the young church in Philippi to gather for worship. Ossie, like Lydia, used her gift of service and hospitality creatively to express her love for Christ and others.

Ossie, who just turned 90, lives in a nursing home facility. While Ossie is confined to a wheelchair, she is still able to knit. Ossie began knitting when she was a child, learning from her mother. Ossie would display her knitted or crocheted items at the county fair. Many people would commission Ossie to knit hats, gloves, and mittens for their children.

Ossie knits and crochets items to be a blessing to others in her building. Ossie knits shawls, lap blankets, socks, slippers, scarfs, and even wheelchair and walker totes.

On Ossie's 90th birthday, the staff honored Ossie as the "Ultimate Hospitality Resident of the Month." The staff invited a TV reporter to interview Ossie. The residents were invited to stop by the rec room throughout the morning to have fresh fruit and snacks and to wish Ossie a happy birthday. What Ossie did not know was that, with the assistance of staff, the residents each designed a quilt square to make a "We Love You, Ossie" quilt to present to Ossie on her birthday.

When Ossie received the quilt the TV reporter was there to capture the moment. The residents who were bedridden watched the moment on closed-captioned TV from their rooms. Ossie said she had never been so happy in all of her life. When asked why she knits, Ossie said her mother taught her that all God's people should be generous and hospitable. Ossie said she knows that God has given her this ministry of hospitality. And just because she is living with some assistance, Ossie said, it does not mean that God has stopped using her to be a blessing to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways can Ossie's story open our hearts and lives to others?
2. Ossie believes that God has called all of His people to be hospitable. Share ways in which Christians can show generous hospitality to one another and to nonbelievers today.
3. In what way is God using you in the area of hospitality and generosity?