

SERMON NOTES

Leviticus 19:33-34 - Loving the Stranger  
Sermon Series: *Time For Change* #8

Questions for family/small group discussions:

Two ways that we are to treat/relate to the stranger:

1. Do \_\_\_\_\_ do any \_\_\_\_\_ to him/her.

What are some ways that you could or have mistreated someone who is different or in need of relationship or friendship? We saw that hospitality is a primary gospel offensive strategy against the isolating kingdom of darkness. Discuss how we can do harm by ignoring others or huddling in our homes or with our same old friends.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the stranger.

a. When you see in Lev. 19:34 and 19:18 that you are to love and care for the stranger in the same way that you would for your own family or for yourself, what would that look like for you?

b. How does Luke 14:12-14 and Hebrews 13:2 change the way that you should extend invitations and hospitality?

c. What are the greatest barriers, factors or excuses that keep you from being faithful to loving the stranger?

d. Why is it so important for us to remember and embrace our identity as strangers (Lev. 19:34, Ex. 23:9)? How does this make a difference for our hearts and actions?

Jesus left his home to become a \_\_\_\_\_ and was rejected on the cross so that we, who are \_\_\_\_\_, and deserve to be \_\_\_\_\_, could be welcomed home.

e. We said that we need an ongoing recognition of our deep need for Christ from being a stranger. How can you nurture this deep need for Jesus and increasingly become a stranger?

f. We said that we can make real progress in making hospitality a way of life and can become the generous, welcoming father who scans the horizon for others when we become the lost son who is welcomed home every day. How do you see God pursuing, loving, and caring for you every day?

g. Pray for eyes that will scan and look for those in need of relationship. Who can you pursue and invite for lunch/coffee this week? Will you commit to get a bit weaned from the same old clique of friends and take a step in this way?

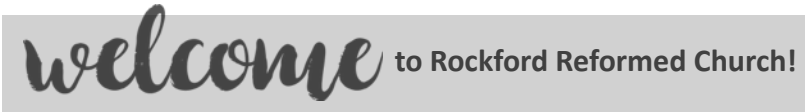
h. What are some practical, concrete steps that you or your small group or family will take to push out and extend hospitality? Hold each other accountable. Keep asking each other how you are doing in making progress in this way.

**Additional resource to consider:** *The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in our Post-Christian World*, by Rosaria Butterfield.



Order of Worship  
Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude	<i>Scandal of Grace</i>
Call to Worship	<i>Blessed Be Your Name</i> <i>Jesus Paid it All</i> <i>** Kids are invited to KidLife downstairs</i> <i>Man of Sorrows</i>
Offering	<i>God is Able</i>
Prayer & Message	Loving the Stranger Lev. 19:33-34 (p. 89) Rev. Tim Meendering
Response	<i>Grace Alone</i>
Closing Blessing	
Next Week	Preach the Word: 2 Tim. 4:1-5



In this program you will find today’s order of worship, along with announcements, a calendar, prayer requests, and more. If this is your first time here, please stop by our welcome table in the lobby and pick up a gift bag!



Rockford Reformed Church

4890 11 Mile Road NE  
Rockford, MI 49341

616-866-2308

RockfordRC.org  
connect@rockfordrc.org

Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 9:00am–2:30pm

Pastor:  
Tim Meendering  
Tim@rockfordrc.org

Director of Worship:  
Mike Fisk  
Mike@rockfordrc.org

Director of Youth Ministries:  
Brian Ellis  
Brian@rockfordrc.org

Director of Children’s Ministries:  
Beth Jennings  
Beth@rockfordrc.org

Director of Kids Hope:  
Emillie Clayton  
Emillie@rockfordrc.org

Office Administrator:  
Laura Jolliffe  
Laura@rockfordrc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Jean Boyd** - pray as she continues through chemotherapy treatments.

**Bill Boyd** - continues dialysis and awaits a transplant.

Medical concerns of various Haiti individuals, especially Jorvens.

Be in prayer for all military personnel, people searching for jobs, and disaster victims.

**Judy Handanch** (Terri Katsma’s sister) - continues cancer treatments, some improvement.

**Helen Heemstra** (Terri Katsma’s mom) - cancer has spread throughout her body.



WHERE DO MY KIDS GO?

If you have children, they are welcome to remain with you throughout the service, or you can choose from different options:

**KidLife Worship** (3 years - 2nd grade) - Check-in is in the Fellowship Hall, Room 100 (directly below the sanctuary). Kids may start service here, or go after our opening music in the sanctuary.

**KidLife Nursery** (0-3 years) - Room 241 (upper level of gym).

**Parent-Infant Room** - available near the back of the sanctuary for fussy children and nursing mothers.

**Children’s bulletins** and crayons are available near the lobby stairs.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2/24 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Sunday School 12:15 HS Fundraiser dinner in the gym - all are invited!	2/25	2/26 7:00a Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	2/27 6:00p Family Dinner 6:30p KidLife Club 6:30p MS Youth Group 6:45p Adult Classes	2/28 6:30p Ladies Book Club	3/1 7a REAL Men @ Arnie’s 34 S. Squires St.	3/2
3/3 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Sunday School 6:30p HS Youth Group	3/4	3/5 7:00a Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	3/6 12 p Adult Fellowship Potluck 6:00p Family Dinner 6:30p KidLife Club 6:30p MS Youth Group 6:45p Adult Classes	3/7	3/8 6:15p Trivia Night	3/9
3/10 Daylight Savings 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Sunday School 6:30p HS Youth Group	3/11	3/12 7:00a Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:30a Women’s Bible Study	3/13 6:00p Family Dinner 6:30p KidLife Club 6:30p MS Youth Group 6:45p Adult Classes	3/14	3/15 7a REAL Men @ Arnie’s 34 S. Squires St.	3/16 9am-2pm Garage Sale
For a full listing of all of our events, announcements, volunteer needs, and more, be sure to sign up for the eBeacon, emailed weekly. Contact the church office at connect@rockfordrc.org and ask to be put on the list. Paper copies are available for those without email.						

**SUNDAY SCHOOL, 11:15-12:15**

Adults - Fireside Room 253  
High School - Room 246  
Middle School - Youth Room 153  
Children - Fellowship Hall 100

**FUNDRAISER DINNER**

Join us in the gym at 12:15 for a delicious meal and silent auction!

Menu

Chicken Alfredo  
Italian Sausage  
Pasta Marinara  
Salad, Green Beans  
Breadsticks  
Dessert

Money raised will go toward high school mission trips and retreats

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT, 6:00-8:00**

6:00 Family Dinner in the gym  
6:30 KidLife Club - 3 years - K meet in Room 101; 1-5 grades meet in the sanctuary  
6:30 Middle School Youth Group - Youth Room 153  
6:45 Adult Classes - *Growing Together*, Fireside Room 253; *What Makes You Happy*, Room 250 (women’s study)

**Growing Together**

A biblical approach to fruitful ministry in the body of Christ

Wednesdays beginning February 27  
6:45-8:00pm in the Fireside Room

**Garage Sale Drop-off** begins March 6. Signs in the gym will show you where to place your items. No large appliances, TV's, child car seats, or mattresses. Please contact Deb Coon with any questions (204-3860).

**Volunteer needs** in KidLife on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour: **preschool leader, 1-3 grade leader** to help alternate days with the current leader. Please contact Beth Jennings.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

6:15-9:00 p.m. in the gym

Free appetizers start at 6:15, trivia starts at 7:00. Register online or in the lobby. Childcare provided by our youth ministry to raise funds for mission trips and retreats.  
RockfordRC.org/trivia-night



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

You can give directly from your phone or computer. Look for the link on the front page of our website. Contact the office if you would like offering envelopes.

Last week’s attendance: 259 • Last week’s offering: \$12,520