

**A Healthy Body**  
**The Reproductive System: Hospitality**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**  
**August 7, 2016**

**Introduction**

Read Luke 5:1-11. These verses are a lesson in faith. Jesus tells Simon to go deeper and let down the nets with the promise that they will return filled to the brim. Are we going deeper and letting down our nets? In other words, are we doing the things we should be doing in order to reach people for Christ? A church filled with genuine radical hospitality should be immediately evident to guests when they come through the door. It is our responsibility as a whole to build this type of environment.

**Digging Deeper**

**Get in the boat!**

- Before we can make disciples, we must first become disciples ourselves. Are you seeking to receive the gospel every day? If we are starving for the Truth, how can we possibly expect to properly feed others? That must be why the airlines tell us to secure our own oxygen mask first in the event of an emergency! Are you spending enough time every day preparing your heart and mind for the large task of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ?
- What lifestyle changes might be in order to ensure that we are living “on the boat” with Jesus and following His way rather than the way of the world?

**Invite others into the boat!**

- Remember what the Bible tells us in Matthew 18:20 (NLT), “For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” As we heard in our sermon this week, Christian hospitality is a team sport. We can’t do it alone. God wants us to always be aware of potential new teammates. At the grocery store. Getting your oil changed. Eating lunch at a new restaurant. These are just a few of the places we could be missing a chance to engage someone in a conversation about coming to church one Sunday, visiting a small group or Bible study class, attending a children’s ministry event, etc. Talk about ways this attitude and effort could be manifested in your world.
- Word spreads fast in a small town. You tell two friends. Then they tell two more. And so on, and so on... Most people are just waiting to be asked to help or to simply visit our church. Once people feel like they are a valuable part of something good, they feel connected. People who feel appreciated and connected will almost always seek out ways to become more involved. The good news is, servant opportunities are abundantly available in our community. Pick one that you and your group will participate in and invite an unchurched friend or two to come help. And when you’re done, share your experience to start a fire in your friends to do the same! Before you know it, we could all be rowing together on Jesus’ boat!

## **Conclusion**

So as we journey through this Healthy Body sermon series, think of the reproductive system as being the hospitality of our people. Radical Hospitality will help us form an attractive and enjoyable Body of Christ. Word of this will spread to those people who might be thinking of coming to our church. Based on how well our body moves, they will either leave here feeling blessed, bothered or bland! In order to bring the blessing, we must personify hospitality with our hearts and arms extended in friendship. This is how we will continue to grow for the glory of God. As God commanded in Genesis 1:28: "Be fruitful and multiply." As Jesus spoke in Luke 5:10b (NLT) "Don't be afraid! From now on you will be fishing for people!"

## **Prayer for the week:**

Dear God, I know I have sinned, and I ask your forgiveness. I believe your Son Jesus died for my sins, rose from the dead, and is coming again. I trust and follow Christ as Lord and Savior. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and enable me to share your love and life with others. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.