

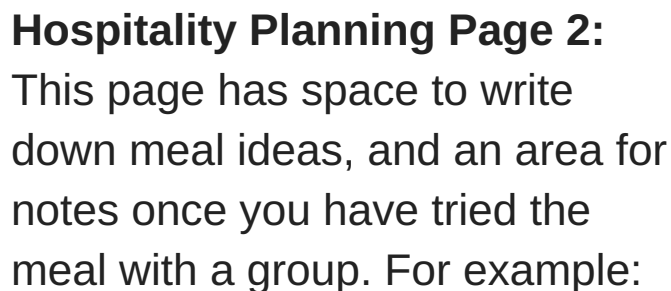
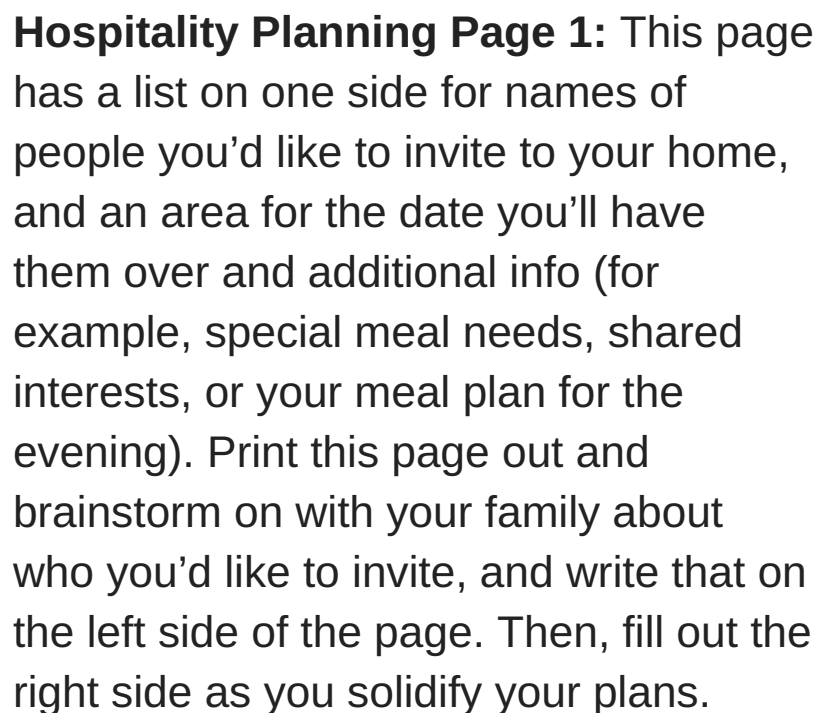


# Practical Tips



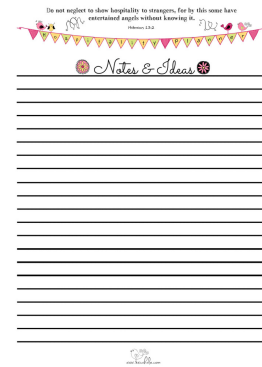
- **Be brave!** Make a commitment to do this thing, have a family over for dinner. Give yourself a timeline and go for it.
- **Make a list of meals** that you can easily make that will serve your family, plus guests. It doesn't have to be fancy! Make use of your crock-pot or your magical Instant Pot. On that list could be phone numbers to your favorite pizza delivery or Chinese Takeout place—there's nothing at all wrong with saying "I would love to have you over, but I have a busy work week. If you're not opposed to pizza, are you free on Friday?" I've included a list of meal ideas to get you started.
- **Make a list of people** you'd like to invite over. Members of your small group, the parents of kids your kids get along with, people you've talked with at church but would like to know better, neighbors, co-workers—I bet you'll be surprised with how many people you come up with!
- **Consider mixing it up.** Some good friends of ours are amazing hosts, and they'll prepare wonderful meals and invite a variety of people over. We've met and gotten to know a whole bunch of people that way, and I really appreciate the way they give people a place to meet and connect.
- **Plan a picnic** with people from your small group, or an outing somewhere that would allow for good conversation. If you're not able to host a gathering in your house, you can still practice hospitality! There is something really special about breaking bread together, but food doesn't always have to be involved. When you're chatting with that person after church and you're really connecting, ask them if they have time to continue the conversation over coffee or lunch—or prepare your home in advance and plan to ask someone new over after church.
- **Consider creating a guest space in your home.** An extra room can be turned into a comfortable place to host overnight guests, missionaries traveling through, visiting pastors, refugees or someone who needs a little time to get back on their feet. It doesn't have to be a full-time guest room, you can create a shared space in an office, family room, or playroom...just a space that can provide shelter when it's needed.
- **Don't be afraid to ask people to help out.** It's a lot of fun to have pot-luck suppers, especially when you're planning for a larger group. If you're having a lot of people over, have everyone bring something—you can specify the items you'll need (main dish, side dish, dessert). Add a couple of things from your own kitchen, and you'll be sure to always have enough food!

**Verse Art/Cover Page:** You can print this verse and frame it, and/or print it out and use it as the cover for your Hospitality Notebook.



# How to Use This Planner

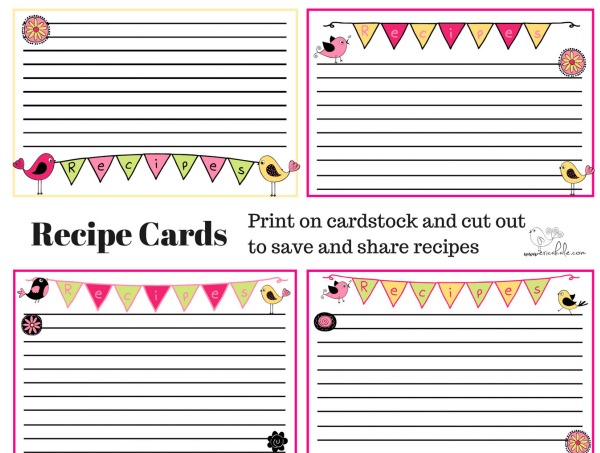
**Note Pages:** You can print these out and use them as you'd like, taking notes on things you'd like to try or journaling about your hospitality journey! Punch holes with a 3-hole punch and fill your notebook with these pages.



**Shopping and To-Do lists:** Print these and cut the pages in half down the center. These can be used as you plan your meals and prepare your home. You can print and cut several pages at once, then store them in the pockets of your planning notebook.



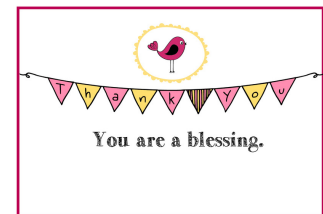
**Recipe Cards:** Print the cards on cardstock, and cut them out. Keep them in your notebook pockets or fill plastic notebook sleeves (the kind that hold photos) with the cards and organize your recipes. You can save favorite hospitality recipes on the cards, and if a guest would like the recipe for something you've made you can share a card with them! :



**Hospitality Calendar:** Print this out and keep it in your notebook. Write the names and dates of families you'll have over in each month, and add dates for open houses, gatherings, and holiday parties.



**Invitation and Thank You Cards:** Print these on cardstock, or have them printed by a card-printing service. There are notecard-style cards that are like a postcard, and foldable versions. They can be printed at home on card stock or sent to a printing service, feel free to resize as desired.



**Notebook Tabs:** Cut out the tabs and glue them to cardstock or heavy paper. Punch holes in the paper with a 3-hole punch and use the tabbed pages to organize your notebook (there are several blank tabs for custom use).



**Notebook Tabs**  
Print tabs and fold in half. Glue tabs to card stock, punch with 3-hole punch and use to organize your information.

**Additional ideas:** When you find a recipe you'd like to try, print it out and punch holes in it. You can keep these in your notebook for later use! Keep your notebook in the kitchen and take notes as you go, adding and expanding as you learn. The notebook is a wonderful way to keep track of favorites, and a sweet record of time spent together. When your children grow up and get married, you can give them a copy of the notebook to help get them start practicing hospitality!