

RADICAL HOSPITALITY ACTIVITY

To Be done as part of Radical Hospitality Covenant Circle Session

Needed: lemons, one per person, and a bowl or basket to hold them

How can we be open to those people who are radically different from us? Perhaps the first step is recognizing the differences and affirming those qualities which make us unique individuals. Share with the group this quote from Deborah Tannen (a contemporary linguist) in the book, *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*:

*We all know we are unique individuals,
but we tend to see others as representatives of groups.*

Let every person choose a lemon and take a few minutes to really get to know the lemon – to smell it, to become familiar with its size and shape, to check out its bumps or pointy ends, to feel how smooth or textured the skin is. Advise everyone that they'll be expected to be able to identify their own lemon and to say what they think makes their lemon unique. Then collect the lemons, make sure they're mixed up well, and have the participants find their original one.

When each person and lemon are reunited, ask about the experience.

- Was it easy or hard to find the right lemon?
- What made it possible to pick the right one?
- Did it surprise them to find out how many differences lemons could have from each other?

If you want, ask the members to introduce their lemons to the group, pointing out its qualities.

Now ask the group if they can think of how this experience of getting to know a lemon can be applied to getting to know a new person. If they paid the same attention to people that they did to the lemon could it:

- Help them make a new friend?
- Help them be more understanding of someone who is different from them?
- Help them not stereotype a group of people?

Remind participants that when they open themselves up to meeting someone new, and especially when they accept the differences of that new person, they are extending "radical hospitality".