

# How To Study the Bible

## Topical Study: Hospitality

### Step 1:

Look up “Hospitality” in an exhaustive concordance. Make sure that the concordance you are using matches the Bible translation we use.

For this example I will be using <http://www.blueletterbible.org>, but the steps will be similar in a paper concordance.

- Type hospitality into the search box and choose your translation (note: the search is connected with *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* so in order to use this feature you must select either NASB or KJV)

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible website. At the top, there's a banner with a world map and text: "The BLB. Used worldwide." Below this, a search bar is visible with the word "hospitality" entered. To the right of the search bar, there are links for "NASB" and "KJV". The page also features a sidebar with various navigation links and a footer with social media icons.

- Now you have your search results for every time “hospitality” occurs in your Bible. Notice the tiny numbers next to the words; these will link you to more information on the word in the original language. If there is a different number next to the same word, it indicates that a different word was used in the original language. Click on the number next to “hospitality” found in Romans 12:13.

The screenshot shows the search results for "hospitality" in the NASB. The results are displayed in a table format, showing the verse, the word "hospitality", and the original language (Greek) word. The results are as follows:

Verse	Word	Original Language
Rom 12:13	contributing	2841
Rom 12:13	to the needs	5532
Rom 12:13	of the saints	40
Rom 12:13	practicing	1377
Rom 12:13	hospitality	5381
1Ti 5:10	having a reputation	3140
1Ti 5:10	for	1722
1Ti 5:10	good	2570
1Ti 5:10	works	2041
1Ti 5:10	and if	1487
1Ti 5:10	she has brought up children	2044
1Ti 5:10	if	1487
1Ti 5:10	she has shown	3580
1Ti 5:10	hospitality	5381
1Ti 5:10	to strangers	3580
1Ti 5:10	if	1487
1Ti 5:10	she has washed	3538
1Ti 5:10	the	40
1Ti 5:10	saints	40
1Ti 5:10	feet	4228
1Ti 5:10	if	1487
1Ti 5:10	she has assisted	1884
1Ti 5:10	those in distress	2346
1Ti 5:10	and if	1487
1Ti 5:10	she has devoted herself	1872
1Ti 5:10	to every	2956
1Ti 5:10	good	18
1Ti 5:10	work	2041
Hbr 13:2	Do not	3361
Hbr 13:2	neglect	1950
Hbr 13:2	to show	3381
Hbr 13:2	hospitality	5381
Hbr 13:2	to strangers	3381
Hbr 13:2	for	1063
Hbr 13:2	by	1223
Hbr 13:2	this	3778
Hbr 13:2	some	5100
Hbr 13:2	have entertained	3579
Hbr 13:2	angels	32
Hbr 13:2	without knowing it	2990

- c. You now have a plethora of information about the Greek word “hospitality” including where else this specific word is used, definitions and etymology. This gives you a basic understanding of the topic you are studying. Be sure to read the sections of scripture that contain this word to gain a contextual understanding of the meaning.

**Strong's G5381 - philoxenia**

φιλοξενία

<b>Transliteration</b> philoxenia	<b>Pronunciation</b> fē-lo-kse-nē-ă (Key)
<b>Part of Speech</b> feminine noun	<b>Root Word (Etymology)</b> From φιλόξενος (G5382)
<b>TDNT Reference</b> 5:1,*	<b>Vines</b> View Entry

**Outline of Biblical Usage**

1) love to strangers, hospitality

**Authorized Version (KJV) Translation Count – Total: 2**

AV – hospitality 1, lover of strangers 1

**Thayer's Lexicon (Help)**

φιλο-ξενία, -ας, ἡ, (φιλόξενος, q. v.), *love to strangers, hospitality*: Ro. xii. 13; Heb. xiii. 2. (Plat., Polyb., al.)\*

**Word / Phrase / Strong's Search**

<- Previous Strong's G5380      Next Strong's G5382 ->

G5381    NASB    Search

**Concordance Results Using NASB**

Strong's G5381 - philoxenia

**Search the BLB**

Word or Verse  
NASB    Range Options

LexiCanc    Search Options

FAQ Search

**Search Results**

(Notes)

Rom(1)    Hbr(1)

Entire Bible

**Featured Items**

MyBLB:

- My Preferred Bible

**Today's Items:**

- Day by Day by Grace
- Daily Promise
- Bible Reading
- Morning & Evening Devotion

**Items of Interest:**

- ISBE
- Daily Bible Reading

## Step Two:

Use a topical Bible to explore the subject further. A topical Bible will contain scripture references to the subject you are studying that may not necessarily contain the word you are looking up and therefore won't come up in a concordance search.

I will be using <http://www.naves-topical-bible.com> the book form is *Nave's Topical Bible*.

- a. This site is alphabetically searchable, so click on “H” and then find “hospitality” and click to find the entry. Read about all the instances of hospitality listed to gain new insight into the subject.

## HOSPITALITY

Previous topic: [HOSHEA](#) Next topic: [HOSTAGE](#)  
 See also [Torrey's Topics on Hospitality](#).

General scriptures concerning

Exodus 22:21 Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 23:9 Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD thy God.

Leviticus 19:33-34 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.


Leviticus 24:22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 26:12-13 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, *which is* the year of tithing, and hast given *it* unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of *mine* house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:

Deuteronomy 27:19 Cursed be he that converteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow, and all

### Bible software



For a complete Bible study software package with over one million cross-references combined, try [SwordSearcher](#). SwordSearcher has tens of thousands of topical and encyclopedic entries all linked to scripture, fully searchable and indexed by both topic and verse reference, and includes [Havens Topical Bible](#).

Also, try [Daily Bible and Prayer](#) to keep track of your prayer list; do a daily devotional from C. H. Spurgeon's Faith Checkbook, and read the Bible through in a year.

- b. You will notice toward the bottom of the entry, several related topics are listed. These would be great to read up on as well and may help you with your understanding of the topic.

thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

See [GUEST](#)

[\[GUEST\]](#)

See [STRANGERS](#)

[\[STRANGERS\]](#)

INSTANCES OF

Pharaoh to Abraham

Genesis 12:16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

Melchizedek to Abraham

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Abraham to the angels

Genesis 18:1-8 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. ...

### Step 3:

At this point it is a great idea to get an idea of how your topic was understood in the culture of the day. A good way to do this is to look in a Bible Encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary.

For this example I will use <http://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/> , the text equivalent is the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*.

\*This site is also alphabetically searchable. Locate your topic and click on it. You will be provided with a ton of information relative to your topic. Other related topics will be listed. Once you have read this information it would be good to go back and read some of the instances of “hospitality” and see how the cultural information you learned might help you better understand the accounts in scripture.

## Hospitality; Host



### HOSPITALITY; HOST

hos-pi-tal'-i-ti, host (philoxenia, "love of strangers," xenos, "guest," "friend"; pandochous, "innkeeper");

#### 1. Among Nomads:

When the civilization of a people has advanced so far that some traveling has become necessary, but not yet so far that traveling by individuals is a usual thing, then hospitality is a virtue indispensable to the life of the people. This stage of culture was that represented in ancient Palestine and the stage whose customs are still preserved among the present-day Arabs of the desert. Hospitality is regarded as a right by the traveler, to whom it never occurs to thank his host as if for a favor. And hospitality is granted as a duty by the host, who himself may very soon be dependent on some one else's hospitality. But none the less, both in Old Testament times and today, the granting of that right is surrounded by an etiquette that has made Arabian hospitality so justly celebrated. The traveler is made the literal master of the house during his stay; his host will perform for him the most servile offices, and will not even sit in his presence without express request. To the use of the guest is given over all that his host possesses, stopping not even short of the honor of wife or daughter. "Be we not all," say the poor nomads, "guests of Ullah? Has God given unto them, God's guest shall partake with them thereof.

If they will not for God render his own, it should not go well with them" (Doughty, Arabia Deserta, I, 228). The host is in duty bound to defend his guest against all comers and to lay aside any personal hatred—the murderer of father is safe as the guest of the son.

#### 2. In the Old Testament:

An exquisite example of the etiquette of hospitality is found in [Genesis 18:1-8](#). The very fact that the three strangers have passed by Abraham's door gives him the privilege of entertaining them. When he sees them approaching he runs to beg the honor of their turning in to him, with oriental courtesy deprecates the feast that he is about to lay before them as "a morsel of bread," and

### Free Newsletters

- ☐ Bible Study Tools Weekly
- ☐ Today's Bible Reading - NIV
- ☐ Today's Bible Reading - ESV
- ☐ Today's Bible Reading - KJV
- ☐ Today's Bible Reading - NAS
- ☐ Christianity.com Foundations Weekly
- ☐ Christian Living Connection - Christianity.com
- ☐ Live It!
- ☐ Beyond Sunday -- BibleStudyTools

[More Newsletters](#)

enter your e-mail address

[Subscribe](#)

To receive email newsletter, updates, and special offers from BibleStudyTools, select your newsletter(s), enter your email address and hit "Subscribe".

[Privacy Policy](#) / [Terms of Use](#)

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

Israel is under attack. Defend her by learning the facts. Get your FREE eBook