

Eating together

Abraham's visitors

Genesis 18:1-15

1And the LORD appeared to (Abraham) by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. **2**He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth **3**and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. **4**Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, **5**while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." **6**And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." **7**And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. **8**Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

9They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." **10**The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. **11**Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. **12**So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" **13**The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' **14**Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." **15**But Sarah denied it,^e saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

Hebrews 13:1-2

1Let brotherly love continue. **2**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Surah Hud 11:69-74

69. And indeed Our messengers came to Abraham with glad tidings. They said, "Peace." "Peace," he said, and he hastened to bring them a roasted calf. 70. Then when he saw that their hands reached not toward it, he conceived a fear of them. They said, "Fear not. Verily we have been sent unto the people of Lot." 71. And his wife was standing there and she laughed. Then We gave her glad tidings of Isaac, and after Isaac, of Jacob. 72. She said, "Oh, woe unto me! Shall I bear a child when I am an old woman, and this husband of mine is an old man? That would surely be an astounding thing." 73. They said, "Do you marvel at the Command of God? The Mercy of God and His Blessings be upon you, O People of the House! Truly He is Praised, Glorious." 74. So when the awe had left Abraham and glad tidings had come unto him, he pleaded with Us concerning the people of Lot.

Surah al-Hijr 15:51-55

51. And tell them of the guests of Abraham, R when they entered upon him and said, "Peace!" He said, "Verily of you we are afraid." 52. They said, "Be not afraid. Truly we bring thee glad tidings of a knowing son." 53. He said, "Do you bring me glad tidings when old age has befallen me? So of what do you bring me glad tidings?" 54. They said, "We bring thee glad tidings in truth; so be not among those who despair." 55. He said, "Who despairs of the Mercy of his Lord, save those who are astray?"

Surah adh-Dhariyat 51:24-30

24. Hast thou heard tell of Abraham's honored guests, 25. when they entered upon him and said, "Peace!" he said, "Peace—an unfamiliar folk." 26. Then he went quietly to his family and came with a fattened calf. 27. He placed it close to them, saying, "Will you not eat?" 28. Then he conceived a fear of them. They said, "Fear not!" and gave him glad tidings of a knowing son. 29. Then his wife came forward with a loud cry; she struck her face and said, "A barren old woman!" 30. They said, "Thus has thy Lord decreed. Truly He is the Wise, the Knowing."

Supplementary texts

Old Testament

Proverbs 15:17

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

New Testament

Luke 4:38-39

38And (Jesus) arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. **39**And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Luke 5:27-32;

27After this (Jesus) went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "**Follow me.**" **28**And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

29And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. **30**And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" **31**And Jesus answered them, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** **32****I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.**"

Luke 9:10-17.

10On their return the apostles told (Jesus) all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. **11**When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. **12**Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." **13**But he said to them, "**You give them something to eat.**" They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." **14**For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "**Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.**" **15**And they did so, and had them all sit down. **16**And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. **17**And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Hadith

Wahshi bin Harb (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Some of the Companions of Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "We eat but are not satisfied." He (ﷺ) said, "Perhaps you eat separately." The Companions replied in affirmative. He then said: "Eat together and mention the Name of Allah over your food. It will be blessed for you." (Abu Dawud)

'Umar b. al-Khattab reported God's messenger as saying, "Eat together and not separately, for the blessing is associated with the company." Ibn Majah transmitted it.

Narrated Abu Shuraih Al-Ka`bi: Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously. The guest's reward is: To provide him with a superior type of food for a night and a day and a guest is to be entertained with food for three days, and whatever is offered beyond that, is regarded as something given in charity. And it is not lawful for a guest to stay with his host for such a long period so as to put him in a critical position." (Bukhari)

Narrated `Abdur-Rahman bin Abu Bakr: Abu Bakr came with a guest or some guests, but he stayed late at night with the Prophet (ﷺ) and when he came, my mother said (to him), "Have you been detained from your guest or guests tonight?" He said, "Haven't you served the supper to them?" She replied, "We presented the meal to him (or to them), but he (or they) refused to eat." Abu Bakr became angry, rebuked me and invoked Allah to cause (my) ears to be cut and swore not to eat of it!" I hid myself, and he called me, "O ignorant (boy)!" Abu Bakr's wife swore that she would not eat of it and so the guests or the guest swore that they would not eat of it till he ate of it. Abu Bakr said, "All that happened was from Satan." So he asked for the meals and ate of it, and so did they. Whenever they took a handful of the meal, the meal grew (increased) from underneath more than that mouthful. He said (to his wife), "O, sister of Bani Firas! What is this?" She said, "O, pleasure of my eyes! The meal is now more than it had been before we started eating" So they ate of it and sent the rest of that meal to the Prophet. It is said that the Prophet (ﷺ) also ate of it. (Bukhari)

Abu Hurairah narrated: That a man from the Ansar had a guest spend the night with him, but he did not have anything to eat but his meal and the meal for his children, so he said to his wife: 'Put the children to sleep, extinguish the torches, and give me whatever you have with you for the guest.' So this Ayah was revealed: And they give preference over themselves even though they were in need of that." (Tirmidhi)

Anas b. Malik reported: Abu Talha ordered Umm Sulaim to prepare a meal specially for Allah's Apostle (ﷺ). He then sent me to him (to the Holy Prophet) ; the rest of the hadith is the same (but there is a slight variation of wording):" Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) placed his hand and mentioned the name of Allah upon that, and then said: Admit ten men. He (Abu Talha) admitted them and they got in. He (the Holy Prophet) said: Eat while mentioning the name of Allah upon it (the meal). They ate until eighty persons had taken the food. Then Allah's Apostle (ﷺ) had his meal and so the members of the household, and still they left some food." (Muslim)