



Table Guide Introduction

What is a Table Guide?

Here at The Vail Church, we want to see organic, disciple-making movements begin to take root in the lives of our people, meaning, we want to be a church full of movement makers. In the New Testament, Jesus used the table and a meal as a primary method of showing hospitality and engaging those He was training.

In story after story, we read of Jesus eating and drinking with the lost and his disciples. In doing so, he set a timeless practice into motion - community around a table. This practice is what the New Testament writers go on to call "hospitality." And while the practice of hospitality is directed at those inside and outside the church, the Greek word literally means "*the love of a guest.*" Hospitality is expressing the welcome of God the Father to all through tangible acts of love, ideally through giving food, shelter, and relationship.

This guide is to help facilitate and inspire discussion. Here are some weekly gathering ideas:

- Dinner with your immediate family
- One-on-one with your spouse
- A small group of friends
- One-on-one coffee meetings

Important to note: This is not a 'small group program'. We are looking to join in Jesus' Kingdom movement, not just manage ministry programs. We are empowering the people of The Vail Church to take ownership of their discipleship to Jesus. It may be scary at first, but as Pastor Craig said, "We set the sail, and God sends the wind." Set the table, and then be open to what God wants to do and who He wants to bring to your table.

How much prep is needed?

Keep it simple above all. Think less content and more discussion and relationship. The goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere, have an honest conversation about the principle, and apply practically the principle that week. It would be good to have listened to the sermon for the week and downloaded both the sermon notes and the Table Guide before meeting as a group.

What should a gathering look like?

We believe the best context includes a meal. Have dinner or coffee, get into some honest discussion, talk about practically following Jesus, pray for one another, and go home. Your gathering doesn't always have to be just your family or friends. Consider inviting your neighbors, people you work with, or people in the community you have a connection with.

Further Resources For Study:

Check out the website below to get a better idea of what this weekly table gathering could look like:

<https://practictheway.org/eating-drinking/part-one>

Need more guidance? Email Leo Loughmiller at leo@thevailchurch.com

Table Discussion Guide

Week 3 - Win

Discipleship Principle: Win - *Sharing* the Good News message

Scripture Focus: John 20:21; Romans 10:13-15; Galatians 1:13, 23-24

Discussion Opener

Last week, our practice was to ‘expose’ someone to the love of Jesus by an act of service, a kind word, a word of encouragement, or just taking time to listen to someone’s story. Share about this experience if you applied this practice. If you did not, talk about what the hurdle was for you to do so.

Discussion Questions

1. Let’s talk about this idea of *Seating* capacity VS *Sending* capacity in a church. How does this go against the cultural norms of our world? Then, how does this idea challenge the culture norms of churches? And to bring it home, how does this challenge how you personally view church?
2. Read Romans 10:13-15 out loud. How do the Romans 10 verses you just read challenge us in how to share the Gospel? Why is it important to not only ‘live’ the Gospel but to ‘share’ it with words as well?
3. There is power in a life story. Just read the New Testament. It is composed mostly of stories and life experiences of Jesus and the original disciples. And those very stories are still impacting us today. Combine your story along with the Gospel and you have a powerful tool in ‘winning’ people for Jesus.

For this last exercise, you will need the P.L.A.Y.S. Book or the TVC App. To get to the P.L.A.Y.S. Book digitally, download and open the ‘Vail Church’ App on your phone, then click on the P.L.A.Y.S tab on the home page. Watch the two videos on the page that will help you get an understanding of this resource. Follow this by looking over the book and discussing how you might use it practically in your daily life.

Practice/Discipline For the Week: *Win* - The practice for this week is to take time to write down your testimony, or your personal story of transformation. If needed, re-visit the video on the TVC App under the P.L.A.Y.S. tab titled “PLAYS ‘S’ for “Share” with Leo Loughmiller”. Keep it simple and next week make space to have a few share their story. If you’re up to it, share your story with someone in your family, your friends, someone at your job, or someone in the community you’re connected with.