



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 1 - Intro to Movements

Discipleship Principle: Jesus came to launch a Kingdom movement, not a ministry program

Scripture Focus: Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:6

Ice Breaker

Groups: Go around the group and introduce yourself. Your name, what you do, and what you hope to get out of the group

One-on-one: Share a little about yourself and where you are in your discipleship journey

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus spent more time with fewer people to make a greater impact. In our discipleship to Jesus, we need to adopt this same model. Discuss how this idea may seem 'upside down' in our culture today.
2. We learned in this week's teaching that a disciple is a "follower, learner, student, and imitator." The Bible does speak to being 'mentored' by others in the faith - which is so important. But the word disciple is used more prominently as a *noun*. How does this idea of 'owning' your faith challenge you in your personal discipleship to Jesus?
3. Honest Answers Only: What do you think is the greatest challenge in seeing discipleship as a movement and not a church program?
4. Read Philippians 4:9 out loud. Movement impact requires personal investment, not just casual interest. In order to have the life of Jesus, you need to adopt the lifestyle of Jesus. What is the biggest challenge in your life to practicing/living out the ways of Jesus?

Practice/Discipline For the Week: Pray. Pray and ask God to open your heart and eyes to the mission and movement that is around you. Come back next week with a few names of people you want to pray for and be intentional about 'showing' Jesus to. If you're feeling bold and ready to see movement, invite someone new to the group next week.