



## **Hospitality - Eating and Drinking**

### **Why is hospitality important?**

The history of the church is around the table. For hundreds of years, this is where the people of Jesus met. The gospel spread from one table to the next. From one home to another. All over a meal. The table is a very ordinary place. So routine and everyday it is easily overlooked as a place of life changing community. By setting a table and sharing a meal, we provide the context for which people feel loved, where people feel heard; a place where God's spirit can move. The practice of eating and drinking is central to the Kingdom of God; Jesus ate with the lost, Jesus ate with community.

### **1. TEACHING – *Being renewed* - EATING & DRINKING:**

Read and reflect on the following passages and how it helps you understand the practice of hospitality and visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/eating-drinking> to listen to the following teachings and ideas how to practice hospitality. You can also find recommended reading on this practice.



**Luke 19v1-10, Luke 7v33-55. *Radically Ordinary Hospitality.*** Jesus “came eating and drinking.” If he had a “method of evangelism,” that was it: eat a meal with people far from God. And all through the New Testament, apprentices of Jesus are commanded to follow his example through the practice of hospitality. Something as radically ordinary and setting a table can create space for people far from God to experience the Father’s warm welcome into his family. <https://practicingtheway.org/eating-drinking/part-one>

**Luke 10v25-38. *Neighbouring.*** Jesus said we are to “love your neighbour as yourself.” What if he meant our actual neighbours? What if we were to reimagine our homes not as a castle to hide in, but as an outpost for the kingdom of God? And our tables as a tangible expression of love? Our meals as the setting where strangers become neighbours and neighbours become brothers and sisters? <https://practicingtheway.org/eating-drinking/part-two>

**Luke 14v12-24. *Food: Justice and Injustice.*** One dimension of the ancient art of hospitality is using food to do justice. Though Jesus’s ambition was to use the dinner table as a tool to do good, he was well aware that it was also being used to do injustice. The same is true today: Everything you eat has a story. How can we, as disciples of Jesus, break our food’s relationship with injustice in order to do good, eating and drinking? <https://practicingtheway.org/eating-drinking/part-three>

**Acts 2v42-47. *Church Around a Table.*** Long before followers of Jesus ever built cathedrals, they met in homes, around a table, eating and drinking as brothers and sisters. As family. This is a very simple idea that tragically we’ve lost over the millennia, at great cost to the church. What if we were to recapture the shared meal as the center of gravity in our church? <https://practicingtheway.org/eating-drinking/part-four>

Consider also

- John 2:10-11; 15:11 – How to become the happiest person alive
- 1 Corinthians 11:17 – Dining Room table Christianity
- Luke 22:19-30 – How the meal become the mass



## 2. PRACTICE – Being intentional:

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/eating-drinking> and click on each of these circles for more ideas and resources how to practice hospitality.

### EATING & DRINKING WITH THE LOST

1

#### Radically Ordinary Hospitality

The welcome of God to all through tangible acts of love, ideally through giving food, shelter, and relationship.

2

#### Neighboring

We usually generalize neighbor to mean anybody. Jesus said the word is so wide it encompasses our enemy.

3

#### Food as Justice

The entire Bible showcases God's great concern for the poor and the hungry. This includes feeding the hungry.

### EATING & DRINKING WITH FAMILY

4

#### Church Around a Table

Central to life in the kingdom of God is eating and drinking together with other apprentices of Jesus, as family.

5

#### Celebration

Jesus was the happiest person alive because God is the most joyful being in all of the universe.

### EATING & DRINKING WITH GOD

6

#### Dining Room Table Christianity

We near the end of our Practice with the third dimension: eating and drinking with God. A meal around the table with Jesus and his community.

7

#### The Meal

The Lord's supper, communion, the eucharist - whatever you call this meal, it is at the core of the way of Jesus.

8

#### The Altar and the Table

The Hebrew ideas of animal sacrifice and covenant meals help us understand God's design and intention for communion.

## 3. TAKE STEPS TO GROW IN COMMUNITY:

- A. To grow in this practice, what is **one idea you want to experiment with this coming week / month?** How will you do that?
- B. **Is there someone that you could connect with for mutual encouragement, learning and accountability to deepen in this practice?**<sup>1</sup> It might be your spouse, sibling, close friend, someone in your life group or someone else at this workshop.

<sup>1</sup> This is a practical way we can fulfill our vision together at TCBC "Transforming lives through Christ-centred community"

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).