

THE
CHURCH TABLE
— TABLE CENTRED —

TABLE CENTRED

The rhythms of our life are generally table-centric. Tables are where we gather, eat, talk, learn, and build relationships.

The Church Table	The Home Table	The Third Table
Church community centred around the Table.	Family/home centred around the Table.	Third spaces that aren't home or church.



**One of the greatest ways
to share the Gospel is to
show the Gospel through
Christian hospitality.**

God's Design: A Table Community



The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper



- Passover celebration (Exodus)
- Plague of death 'passed over' Israelites
- Banquet with lamb, bread, and wine

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

⁷ Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together."

Luke 22:7-21 NLT

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

⁹ “Where do you want us to prepare it?”
they asked him.

Luke 22:7-21 NLT

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

¹⁰ He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, ¹¹ say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?'

Luke 22:7-21 NLT

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

¹² He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.” ¹³ They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

¹⁴ When the time came, Jesus and the apostles *sat down together at the table.*

¹⁵ Jesus said, "I have been *very eager to eat* this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. ¹⁶ For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

Luke 22:7-21 NLT

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

¹⁷ Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

¹⁹ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The Table Established: Jesus' Last Supper

²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

Luke 22:7-21 NLT

The Table Embodied: Church Community

- Last Supper = picture of a Table Community
- Church is *lived out* at the Table
- Jesus provides *new meaning*, a new way of communing with one another





The Gospel

Jesus saves us from our old self
and brings us into community

church
**POTLUCK
MORNING TEA**

— TODAY —

bring a plate, build community

57% of our Discover family have joined in
the past 5 years.



How do we become a Table Community?

Not This ...

But This...



How do we become a Table Community?

Not This ...

Attend a Service

But This...

Christian Hospitality

How do we become a Table Community?

Not This ...

Attend a Service
Consumers

But This...

Christian Hospitality
Contributors

How do we become a Table Community?

Not This ...

Attend a Service
Consumers
Transient (browse)

But This...

Christian Hospitality
Contributors
Committed



“This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the *love you have for each other*.”



Communion

1. What do you think has contributed to the shift to the spiritual transient culture (browsing churches or communities rather than belonging deeply)? How might the Church recover a counter-cultural sense of commitment and belonging in an age of constant movement?
2. Read Luke 22:14–20. What does this moment teach us about the kind of relationships Jesus intends His followers to have with one another? How does the Table re-frame our understanding of what “church” is meant to be?
3. What would it look like for you personally to live as part of a Table Community? Which of the 3 ways challenges you? (e.g., hospitality, contribution, or commitment).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
