

TABLE CENTRED

The rhythms of our life are generally tablecentric. 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.





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

⁷Now 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."

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

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

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."

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."

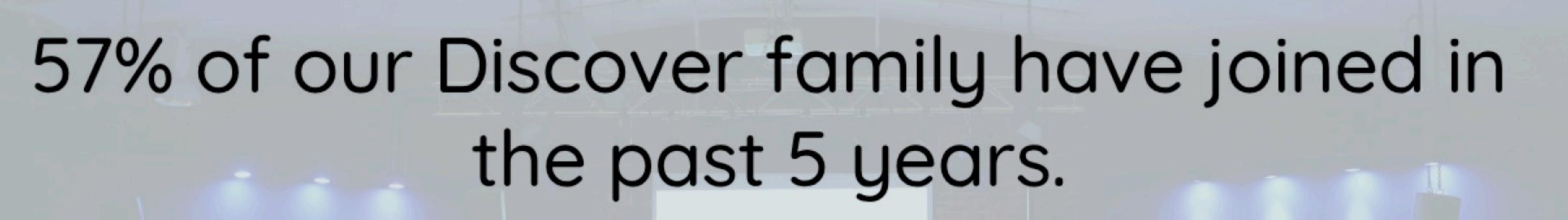
²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

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









Not This ...

But This...

Not This ... Attend a Service

But This...
Christian Hospitality

Not This ... Attend a Service Consumers

But This...

Christian Hospitality
Contributors

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."



- 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