

HOST KIT

*A Guide to Inviting
People to Your Table*



A photograph of a dining table set for a meal, featuring a large floral centerpiece, bread, and various dishes. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The table is set with plates, bowls, glasses, and silverware. A large bouquet of flowers, including roses and tulips, is the centerpiece. There are also some breads and small bowls on the table.

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EVERY MEAL IS MORE
THAN A MEAL, WE SHARE
MORE AT OUR TABLES
THAN FOOD AND DRINK.



UNPACKING THE KIT

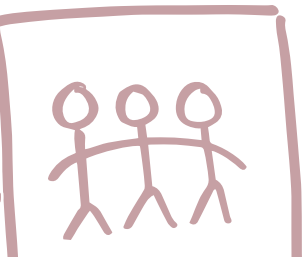
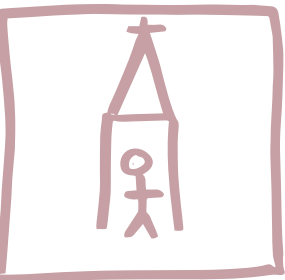
Whether you host regularly or have never had guests in your home, this kit is designed to help you avoid the guesswork and eliminate the potential barriers to inviting others to your table.

YOUR
WORLD

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Our Discipleship Pathway is the simplest expression of how we grow as wholehearted disciples of Jesus. This kit is designed to help you take a tangible step in engaging **Your World**. We hope you will begin actively looking for ways you can help others find **wholehearted life in Jesus** where you live, work, and play and to the ends of the Earth.





THE POWER OF THE TABLE

The table offers a place where strangers can become friends. Jesus invited many people to share a meal throughout his ministry, and He leads us to the ultimate table, the Lord's Table. He became the feast offering himself for us that we may find life in him and be truly satisfied, reconciled to God through his life, death, and resurrection (Luke 22:7-20). God's table is your table, and as you invite people to your table, may some, by God's grace become more than just friends but part of family of God. If you haven't had a chance to listen to our *Generous Table* teaching series we encourage you to take a listen.



EXTENDING THE INVITATION

We suggest reaching out to your neighbor at least four days before you plan to have them over. If you talk frequently, feel free to text the invitation but if you have been neighbors for years or just months and do not talk regularly, we suggest knocking on their door. When you invite them, let them know what you are preparing, ask if there are any allergies and allow them to bring something if they offer.



SETTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Environments communicate. Turn on your porch lights, put on music to play softly, light a candle, have coffee available, and set the table. You do not need to overdo it; this could become a regular rhythm of your life. If your house looks like someone lives in it, that is a good thing! Relax, take a breath—a stressed host makes a stressed dinner. Enjoy your time together and stay present.



FAQ'S

I have neighbors that have lived near me for several years and I am embarrassed to say I still do not know their names. How do I invite them over after all these years?

Totally get it. This is so common, and you are not alone in it. We recommend just owning it by starting the conversation with, "I know we've been neighbors for a long time, and I should have come over sooner. But it's never too late to start, so I would love to invite you for dinner. Would next _____ work for you?"

With everything in my schedule, I just do not have the time to make a meal and to be honest, I am not much of a cook. What do I do?

Do not let time to prepare a meal or the level of your skills in the kitchen get in the way of an opportunity to have a shared meal. There are plenty of places that do all of the work for you. Taziki's has meals for four people to-go, almost everyone loves pizza, or just invite them over for coffee and dessert.

Am I supposed to share the gospel and invite them to church?

Remove the pressure of an expectation to have a deep spiritual conversation around the first meal together. While it would be great if that came up, focus on the relationship and getting to know them first. Since this is part of your life, you will have an opportunity to share at some point.



CONVERSATION STARTERS





CONVERSATION STARTERS

ONE

Where are you originally from?
What brought you here?

TWO

Do you have family living nearby?

THREE

What is your favorite part of living in Nashville?

FOUR

What are your favorite restaurants or places to go in Nashville?

FIVE

Where was your favorite place you went on vacation?

SIX

If you could be a character from your favorite childhood TV show, which one would you be?

SEVEN

Did you have any nicknames growing up?
Any now?

EIGHT

What is your favorite food? Least favorite?

CONNECTION POINT GAME





THE WORLD IS A SMALL PLACE

How to Play:

There is a well-known theory that everyone is connected to one another by six degrees of separation or less. Without using someone in the neighborhood, find how many degrees of separation exist between you and others.

Tip: Start with the basics (where you grew up, college, places you lived, where you work, etc.).

Name

How Many Degrees of Separation?

How Are You Connected?



THINGS IN COMMON

How to Play:

Find at least one surprising or unique thing that you have in common with others and fill in below.

Name










Thing(s) in Common

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Fill in your neighbors names on the squares around where you live.

		
	 You Are Here	
		

HARVEST SALAD BOWL



Prep Time: 15 minutes

Yields: 6 servings

Cook Time: 1 hour

Ingredients

- 2 sweet potatoes
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 oz crumbled goat cheese
- 10 cups favorite salad mix
- 4 chicken breasts (cut or shredded)
- 2 large apples, chopped into cubes
- (optional) 1 1/4 cup pecans or almonds
- 1 1/2 cup quinoa
- Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Wash and chop sweet potatoes. Mix in bowl with olive oil & salt until evenly coated. Place on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil and bake for 20 minutes. Remove & toss, then bake for another 25 minutes until sweet potatoes are browned to your liking. Let cool.
3. Assemble the salad. Mix ingredients & dress with favorite balsamic vinaigrette.

Credit: TheBatterThickens.com **Author:** Molly

God, You are the gracious host that provides generously. The table You set before us allows us to experience Your provision and Your presence.

Jesus, You are at the center of the table as the true meal that satisfies.

Holy Spirit, remind us that all is a gift as we find nourishment in our food and in our relationships.

Help us slow down. Teach us to be present with You and those You have entrusted to our care.

May our table be a beautiful reflection of Your generous table.

Amen.