

Together
Small Group Leaders Kickoff Day
August 22, 2026

8:30 Breakfast

9:00 Sharing Our Stories to be Together (Kalib)

9:25 Table Discussion

10:00 New leaders

10:20 **Break**

10:30 Together at our Tables and Couches (Ian)

10:55 Table Discussion

11:30 **Break**

11:45 Worship and Ministry Time

12:30 **Lunch**

- Together with Our Families (Panel)

1:45 Closing Announcements

- Save the Date: February 26th Leadership Appreciation Banquet

Sharing Our Stories to be Together

Ministry Year Theme from Luke: Following Jesus Together.

Mission of Groups: To help one another love Jesus, His church, and His world.

Means: Through the mutual ministry of redemptive relationships (relationships committed to the biblical one-another's and gospel intentionality).

The Overarching One Another: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”- John 13:34-35?*

BUT how can we love one another if we don't know one another?

-> The local church

= We belong to a family!

BUT we're a big and growing family.

-> Small groups

= We can focus on the family.

BUT how can we know one another unless we know one another's stories?

-> Intentionally share our stories

"Exegete scripture and people at same intensity"- David Polison

= We experience the full family benefits!

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. **Colossians 1:28**

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **Colossians 3:16**

"This envisions a varied ministry of the word within a Christian community- one that includes both the proclamatory speech of certain leaders and the mutual, one another speech of believers generally." **Tony Payne, Let the Word Dwell Richly**

"If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first fifty-five minutes asking them questions to draw out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then in the last five minutes I will share something of the truth." **Francis Shaffer**

Your Role as a leader: Relational Host

A good listener is a rare commodity – so rare that we're willing to pay large sums of money for just an hour of their time." - John Leonard

1. **Make space in your life for others**

2. **Direct the conversation** (vary the content breakdown)

- Some nights should be 45 minutes on know one another question, 15 minutes on the Sunday's gathering, and 30 minutes of prayer/mutual ministry.
- Some nights should be 20 minutes on a know one another question, 60 minutes on Sunday's gathering, and 10 minutes for prayer/mutual ministry.
- Some should be 30, 30, 30.

Table Discussion Questions

- Share about your "losses." What hasn't done well when it comes to your group sharing and knowing one another's stories?
- Share your wins! What has gone well?
- What's one thing your group doesn't know about YOU yet that would be helpful for them in order to be an encouragement to you?
- What do you think about this intentional "knowing-one-another-pursuit" as a necessity to help us follow Jesus together?

Together at Our Tables & Couches

The Good News of the New Covenant is that through the blood of Jesus, God forgives our sins, changes our lives, welcomes us into His family, lives among us by His Spirit, and will feast with us forever in the New Heavens and New Earth.

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Ezekiel 36:24–28; Luke 22:20

Question: **How do we experience the Good News of the New Covenant?**

Answer: The Good News of the New Covenant is experienced **house to house and table to table**.

Acts 2:42-47 :: Monument or Model?

The epicenter of Christianity was organized house to house and table to table .

- *Larger group– the House of the Lord–The Lord’s Table.*
- *Smaller groups–house to house–dining room tables.*

TABLE TO TABLE BASICS

What is a Table *Physically*?

At its most basic level, a table is **a place intentionally designed to gather people together.**

What is a Table *Socially*?

A table creates what sociologists often call **shared social space.**

What is a Table *Spiritually*?

In the Kingdom of God, a table becomes **a place where God's grace is experienced in community.**

TABLE TO TABLE THEOLOGY

The Good News of the New Covenant is instituted, celebrated, experienced, and consummated from table to table.

The Lord's Table — The New Covenant Instituted

Luke 22:14–20; Matthew 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

We have a place at God's table because Jesus gave himself for us.

At our Lord's Table, the New Covenant is instituted through his body and blood.

The Communion Table — The New Covenant Celebrated Corporately

1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:17–34; Acts 20:7

At the Communion Table, the New Covenant is experienced as communion with Christ and unity with his people.

The Ordinary Table — The New Covenant Experienced Relationally

Acts 2:42–47; Acts 5:42; Romans 12:9–13; 1 Peter 4:8–10

*The **Communion Table** declares that we are one in Christ.*

*The **Ordinary Table** gives us space to live as one in Christ.*

Around the Ordinary Table, the New Covenant is experienced as shared life with God's people.

The Lamb's Table — The New Covenant Consummated

Revelation 19:6–9; Isaiah 25:6–9; Luke 22:28–30; Matthew 26:29

At the Lamb's Table, the New Covenant will be consummated in everlasting fellowship with Christ and all his redeemed people.

TABLE TO TABLE OPPORTUNITIES

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:46-47**

Every small group meeting is an opportunity to experience our new covenant life in Christ by:

- **Sharing Food** *“breaking bread...received their food”*
- **Sharing Joys** *“glad hearts”*
- **Sharing Needs** *“generous hearts”*
- **Sharing Stories of God’s Activity** *“praising God”*
- **Sharing Grace** *“favor with all the people”*

Table Discussion Questions

- Recount a significant moment in your life that happened around a table or in a circle of couches and chairs with other believers.
- What new and inspiring thought has come to your mind about the significance of sharing life around tables and couches?
- What table opportunities are most regularly experienced in your small group life? Give examples.
- What table opportunities are most needed to be added to your regular small group life?