



Your guide to
**Food,
Friends &
Faith**



**They broke
bread in
their homes
and ate
together
with glad
and sincere
hearts.**

- ACTS 2:46

An answer for our age

What is it about fellowship over a meal that is uniquely special? Of course good food helps, as does knowing someone cares enough about you to invite you into their home. But there's a special kind of alchemy that happens when we take a collective exhale, pull up a chair, and give – and experience – the gift of presence.

Jesus himself modeled this and so, in turn, did his disciples. Historically, God has gathered his people together – and, especially, gathered people who might not have otherwise shared a meal – and done something powerful in their midst.

Today, in 2024, as we live in a nation divided and perhaps worship at a church that is too, can something powerful still happen when Christians gather over a meal? We think yes.

In fact, we believe this kind of communion of the faithful can be a powerful part of our individual and collective formation. Even when we don't always agree. Even when your day to day might look quite different from mind. And, perhaps especially, even in an election year.



Where to start?

Let's talk details.



DECIDE HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU CAN COMFORTABLY HOST

Sure, you can sit eight around your dining room table for a formal meal but you can also gather at your kitchen island or in your living room for snacks & sips. The important part is to gather your people and offer whatever hospitality feels best to you. Here's a simple summer pasta, salad, and dessert to consider. Are you more of a foodie? Check out this summer menu.

Want something that requires basically zero prep? Consider a beverage you love + a dessert board or even chips, salsa, and whatever else is in your pantry. Don't overthink it!



SET A DATE

Set a date and invite your people. Consider the sample text and email below:

To ensure we have enough supplies and food for everyone, kindly RSVP by replying to this email by Monday, November 6th. If you have any dietary restrictions or special requirements, please let us know in your response.

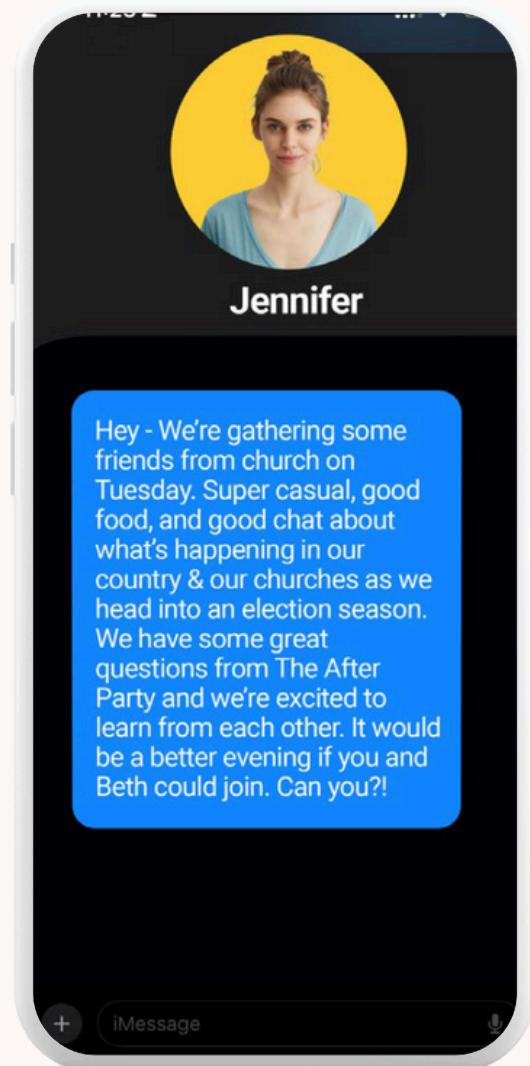
For your reference

An example below

A lead magnet is an invaluable tool designed to attract potential customers by offering them something of value in exchange for their contact information. This could be anything from an informative eBook, a comprehensive checklist, a free trial, or an exclusive discount.

By providing something useful, you not only build trust with your audience but also increase the chances of converting these leads into loyal customers. The key is to ensure that your lead magnet is highly relevant to your target audience's needs and interests, thereby making it irresistible and driving significant engagement.

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When folks arrive...

In Luke Chapter 10, we see the competing tension between “get the house ready! Clean up! Make sure everything is just right!” and “be fully present with your guests.”

While we might quibble about the right ratio of the two, Jesus is clear: true hospitality starts with opening your home and offering a focused, calm presence.

You, as the host, want to set a tone that simply says one thing: I’m so glad you’re here and I’m looking forward to our time together. You’ll likely want to spend some time allowing folks to settle in, relax, and eat before transitioning into the time of more intentional conversation. Trust your instincts – and invite the Holy Spirit to nudge you when it’s

time to transition the evening.

And remember: however casual your meal might be, Jesus promises to be present when two or more are gathered in his name so consider this what it is: A feast!

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your meal might be,
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in his name...”**

The questions

1.

In Matthew Chapter 5, Jesus is pretty clear that we are to show mercy, make peace, not mock our opponents, and prioritize reconciling over winning disputes. Does your experience of Christian political behavior – nationally, in your church, or in your own life – reflect these commands?

2.

When you think of the politics today, which statement most resonates with you and why?

Discuss as a group.

X I'm exhausted.

X I'm angry.

X I'm cynical.

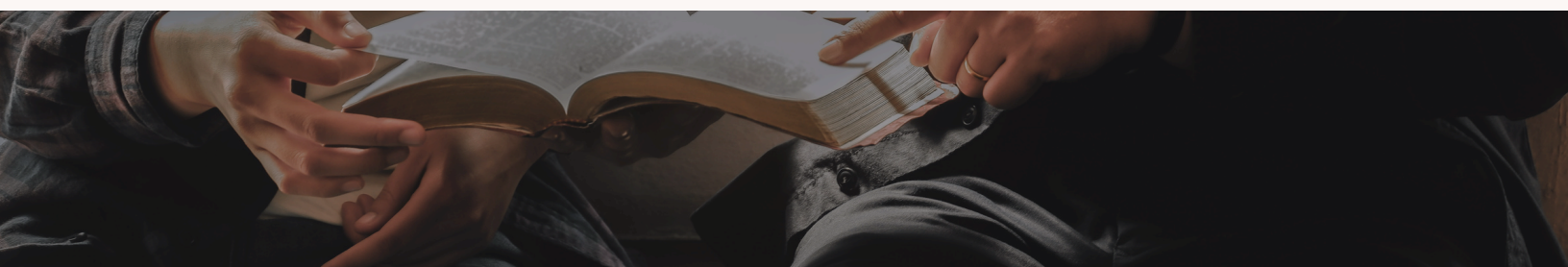
X I'm peaceful.

3.

Can you think of someone who has disappeared from your life because of politics? Maybe you didn't vote for the same candidate, don't land on the same side of a given hot button topic, or don't trust the same news sources. If you'd like, set a timer for 60 seconds. Write down the people who have disappeared from your lives because of political tension.

4.

Why has humility fallen out of favor? Why is it especially important for Christians to lead with humility, in our politics as in all things?





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