



MORE THAN A MEAL CAMPAIGN

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR, COMMUNITY PARTNERS,
KISOBOKA UGANDA, MISIÓN DE CARIDAD,
KITHU SEVANA, IFCM

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Too many people around the world simply do not know where their next meal will come from, and this has been compounded by the recent rising food costs. Food insecurity is a crisis that must be addressed. Highrock is in partnership with several organizations that are tackling this problem head-on through a variety of means. But what we love about our Strategic Ministry Partners is not just that they are providing food to those who need it most. They are offering more. Community, hope, opportunity, and the reminder that those they serve are seen and known by God.

Highrock has supported Neighbor to Neighbor, Community Partners, Kisoboka Uganda, Misión de Caridad, Kithu Sevana, and IFCM for years, but in this season we want to do more because more is needed. As we spend the fall reflecting on the significance of meals in God's story, we invite you to participate in a meal that means more.

This guide has been created to help you host a meal wherein you and your guests will learn together about one (or more) of Highrock's Partners, and then consider making a donation to support the Partner(s) financially. Fighting food insecurity can seem like an overwhelming task, but each small step matters. We want to help lower the barriers that exist between God's heart for hospitality, and our ability to participate in God's purposes as followers of Christ.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Setting the Table
- Discussion
- Practicing Generosity

Setting the Table

Thanks for being willing to host a meal! Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare for the time together.

Consider your guests: Whether you've known your guests forever or are meeting someone new, taking them into account as you prepare your table and meal will set the stage for folks to feel welcome. It could be as simple as setting a fork to the left of the plate for a left-handed friend. It could mean asking about food allergies or dietary restrictions. It could even mean asking your guests to bring a side or something to contribute to a meal because they love cooking.

Be present: Consider what will help you be present as a host. Have you been to a meal where the host is so frantic preparing the food that you never really get to have a good conversation with them? Consider getting takeout or simplifying what you will offer to lighten your own load so that you can be present to your guests rather than focused on making an impressive meal. Fast food with great company and conversation can be more significant than an awkward five-star meal. This time is about *More than a Meal*.

Be curious: As the host, modeling curiosity is key for conversation. Ask questions rather than make definitive statements. You want to foster connection with your guests and invite multiple perspectives at the table to be shared.

Know that God is with you and pray for your gathering. Be yourself and trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in the gathering, even if the meal is burnt or the dog won't stop barking. Roll with things as they develop and try to be flexible and have a sense of humor. People don't need a perfect host, they want an authentic one!

For more details on navigating group conversation, you can check out this [facilitator training](#) and [document](#). It was developed for small groups but is applicable for facilitating discussion in any gathering.

Discussion

After everyone has settled in, here are some questions to discuss together:

Introductions

- Share your name, where you live, how you spend your time, or any other information that you'd like people to know about you
- What was one of your all-time favorite meals?

Conversation around the *More Than A Meal* series:

- Share some memories of meals you had growing up. What were the meals characterized by?
- What are meals like for you now? Do you have particular rhythms or patterns around them? Are they eaten with family, with friends, alone, or a mix?
- What characterizes your meals most days? Are they rushed or relaxed? Are other things happening around them, such as doing work or watching TV? Are the mealtimes set aside for eating or are you eating on the go?
- What makes a meal meaningful to you?
- One of Highrock's five Values is hospitality, and no other image quite captures this value like a shared meal. Are there ways that a meal has helped you connect more deeply with God and/or others?
- In his opening sermon, Pastor Dave quotes Dr. Robert Hotchkins by saying "*Christians ought to be celebrating constantly. We ought to be preoccupied with parties, banquets, feast, and merriment.... We ought to attract people to the church quite literally by the fun there is in being a Christian.*" Are there ways you have seen this in the life of the church? How does it stir your imagination for what the church could be?

Our Partners

Throughout this sermon series, we have gotten to hear from a number of our Strategic Ministry Partners who are practicing solidarity in their communities through meals. We invite you to watch one of the [videos](#) at some point in your meal (maybe as a break between the entree and dessert!) and then have some extended conversation around it. Some questions to prompt conversation:

- What stood out to you about the work this Partner is doing?
- What does it make you think about the role of meals in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth?
- How could our community learn from this Partner when it comes to practicing solidarity with others?

Practicing Generosity

Highrock has created a fund to raise additional support for a group of our Strategic Partners during this critical time. Our hope for these meals is for Highrockers and their guests to take a practical step by making a financial offering towards our Partners. How much people give does not need to be discussed over dinner, but guests can be directed to the website if they would like to contribute.

Would you consider a financial gift to help provide food and relationship to neighbors near and far? Any amount is appreciated. If you or your guests are looking for guidance on how much to give, consider sharing the following creative suggestions: instead of eating out one day this week, donate that money to the fund, make a matching donation of what you spend on a week's worth of groceries, or think of another amount that somehow reflects your personal spending patterns around food and meals.

At the end of the More Than A Meal Campaign, we will divide up the fund among the following Partners:

- [Community Partners](#)
- [India for Christ Ministries](#)
- [Kithu Sevana](#)
- [Kisoboka](#)
- [Misión de Caridad](#)
- [Neighbor 2 Neighbor](#)

To make a donation, please visit our [Giving Page](#) and designate your gift towards the "More Than A Meal Offering."

Thank you for participating in our More Than A Meal Campaign! We hope that through this shared meal you experienced a new way to connect to God, God's People, and God's Purposes in the world!