

# A Place at the Table – The Kingdom of God at Work

## Introduction

What are your memories around the table? What are the smells and tastes that come to your mind when you think about sitting at the table?

A table can have different functions, forms and characteristics. Everything from homework to the making of big decisions happens at tables. Here we live out our daily lives.

God uses this figure to teach us some important values. The Lord's Table (communion), is one of those welcoming images we have in the Gospels. Here is a place for everyone. If you desire to know God and walk with him, there is a place for you!

We want to invite you to ***"A Place at the Table"*** this week. Whether you are a child, youth, adult or a senior, you are welcome. Whether you are married or single, you are welcome. At the table, we can connect with one another. At the table, we can serve one another and reach out to those that are not yet at the table as part of God's family. Together, with all the generations connected, the kingdom of God can stand and work.

We had some very meaningful insights during our first week in July. Now we are ready for our second experience. What will we be doing this week? Serving others, loving others, and helping others to understand that they also have ***"A Place at the Table"***.

## A Place at the Table – The Kingdom of God at Work

**Theme:** week 1 - Psalm 78: 1-8 - God chose the generations to be known, and we care about everyone.

	August 12 Monday	August 13 Tuesday	August 14 Wednesday	August 15 Thursday	August 16 Friday
Mornings		<p><b>Tell Your Story</b> A Place at the Table to share stories and to learn how to tell your story to others <b>(9:00 – 11:30)</b> <b>Kids: Grade 1+</b> Location: PMC <b>Host: Pastor Lew</b></p>	<p><b>Work Day</b> The Kingdom of God in Action!!! <b>Work locations:</b> * Dream Center (Food bank, clothes bank, gardening, parking lot) Kids: Grade 1+ (9:00 – 11:30) <b>Host: Melody Whitehead</b></p>		
Afternoons					
Evenings	<p><b>Prayer Walk</b> A Place at the Table to Pray together <b>(6:30 to 8:30)</b>  Location: PMC and church neighborhood.  <b>Host: Val and Helio</b> (Kids Grade 1 Plus)</p>	<p><b>Paddling and Picnic</b> All family and invited Friends to go to Valens Lake <b>(5:00 – 9:00pm)</b>  Pot-luck Picnic Paddling Park activities <b>Host: Geoff</b></p>	<p><b>Work Day</b> The Kingdom of God in Action!!! <b>Work locations:</b> * Dream Center * Dream Center (Food bank, clothes bank, gardening, parking lot) Kids: Grade 1+ (6:30 – 8:30pm) <b>Host: Melody Whitehead</b></p>		<p><b>Outreach Dinner Taste of Brazil</b> Invite your non-believer friends to connect with people, listen to some songs, a Gospel message, and to have fun. <b>All family welcomed (6:00 - ? pm)</b> Location: PMC <b>Host: Jesse and Helio</b></p>

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## Day 1 – Monday Evening – Prayer Walk (6:30 to 8:30pm)

The table is a comfortable place where we share our lives, receive and give encouragement, and where we are taught.

God, our Father, is welcome at our Table. We want to talk with him about ourselves, about friends, and about our mission. The Father promises to be with us. As we talk and listen to Him, we find our place in his Kingdom work. Acts 2: 42 reminds us that “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and *to prayer*”.

Expected Outcomes for participants:

KNOW: How to listen to God and pray for the needs around us.

BE: See the needs around us and be motivated to pray that God will call people to himself.

DO: Participate in a prayer walk.

Goal: to have different generations praying together for those the Father wants to invite to his table.

Possible audience: seniors, children, adults, teens.

How: teach the importance of prayer, teach how to do a prayer walk, and give people the experience of going on a prayer walk.

Hosts: Val and Helio

## Day 2 – Tuesday morning – Tell your Story (9:00 – 11:30)

There is no better place to listen to stories than sitting around the table. And if there is food involved, stories seem to be even better!

What kind of God-story do you have to tell? Are you a retired missionary? Are you a senior? Are you the mother of some small children? Are you a teenager? Are you a policeman, a mechanic, or a Doctor? Whoever you are, there is a place at the table to tell your story.

The Bible is a story-telling book. One generation is blessed by the other when stories are told. When one generation is open and desires to listen to the stories of other generations, God is honored. Psalms 145.4 reminds us about that: “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”

Expected Outcomes for participants:

KNOW: The value of listening to others' stories to be encouraged by God at work. Know how to tell your own story to others.

BE: Storytellers and listeners who find God’s presence in life through both good and hard times.

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**DO:** Share your own story, reflecting on where God was in it. Learn how to tell our spiritual story to others.

**Goal:** to allow people from different generations to get to know one another better by telling their God-stories

**Expected audience:** seniors, adults, kids and teens.

**How:** invite people from different ages to share their God-stories (testimonies).

### Outline:

9:00 – 9:15 Gathering Time. Ensure tables are of mixed generations. Provide Snacks.

9:15 – 10:00 Invite some specific people to share their God stories (retired missionaries, a mom, a father, etc.), asking them to highlight God's presence in their lives through both the good and hard times.

10:00 – 10:30 Share our God stories around the table group we are sitting in.

Break?

11:00 – 11:30 Pastor Lew will give some tips on how to give our testimonies to non-believers.

11:00 – 11:30 ?

Each person tells her/his story. After each story, we will have time for discussion at the tables:

1. Where was God in this story?
2. How did he/she react in times when God was not clearly present?
3. What you can learn about your own story listening to this story?
4. What are some of the points you have learned that are important to tell your own story to others?

For those telling stories:

Not more than 10 minutes. Focus on main points. You don't need to tell all your story. Think about what is interesting to kids, teens and adults to know.

Who were the key people in this part of your story?

Highlight some struggles and some victories.

What did you learn from God reflecting on your story? Where was God?

**Hosts:** Helio and Pr Lew

People of different ages and experience to tell their God Stories (3-4?):

- 1: Ian Gillis (not confirmed)
2. Larry Macdonald
3. Carolyne and Clair Sears
4. Ruth Simmons
5. Pastor Lew \_\_\_\_\_

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## Day 2 – Tuesday Evening – Paddling and Picnic (5:00 – 9:00)

Around the table we enjoy the presence of family and friends. We take care of our health by eating well, too. We thank God for his goodness to us. Paul reminds us to ‘ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!’ (Phil 4.4).

Our unbelieving friends may find it hard to come to events inside our church. However, we can start to build bridges through recreational activities that build relationships and perhaps friendship. We want to have the opportunity to be salt and light in their lives and make them become thirsty for Jesus.

Expected Outcomes for participants:

**KNOW:** the importance in building relationships (bridges) with unbelievers before talking about Jesus.

**BE:** people who regularly seek out opportunities to connect with others who don't know Christ yet

**DO:** Invite unbeliever friends.

**Goal:** to have fun together with friends and family of different generations

**Expected Audience:** older children, adults and teens (we can have two groups – starters and “pro”)

**How:** Paddling and Picnic opportunity

I hope your summer is going well. I am planning an outing to a local park where we can paddle canoes, swim, play soccer, throw frisbees, fly a kite and have a picnic where people will bring their own food.

**When:** Tuesday, August 13 (meet at 5pm in Philpott parking lot for car pooling- we leave at 5:30)

**Where:** Valen's Lake

**What to bring:** Picnic (we will have a bbq to cook meat, if you have something to cook) towel, bathing suit, chair or blanket and a change of clothes, if you get wet while paddling.

**Cost:** If we have park passes 2 adults per car get in free. Per vehicle and driver: \$15. Per passenger over 5 years of age: \$5 (IF YOU HAVE A PASS YOU COULD LEND US, PLEASE CONTACT ME, GEOFF)

**CANOES:** If you can bring a canoe (2-3 paddles and PFD for 2-3 ppl) please let me know.

check out the park link: <http://conservationhamilton.ca/valens-lake/>

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If this interests you, contact Geoff Beatty: [geoffsidy@gmail.com](mailto:geoffsidy@gmail.com)

**YOU MUST SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME, SO WE CAN ARRANGE RIDES. LET ME KNOW BY AUG 11.**

Hosts: Geoff Beatty will coordinate the event and Helio Nichele will be the support.

### **Day 3 - Wednesday morning / evening – Work Day: Dream Center (9.00 – 11.30am) / (6.30 – 8.30pm)**

Serving others is part of what it means to have a place at God's Table. In Matthew 7:19-20 Jesus says, "So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

We have an amazing opportunity to serve the King of Kings! Acts 20:35b tells: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It does not matter what your age is or how long you have known God, opportunities to serve others helps them understand that, YES, there is room for them at God's Table.

Expected Outcomes for participants:

**KNOW:** the value of service without payment or recognition.

**BE:** people who serve as a way of living out their Christian faith

**DO:** go to a mission agency to serve for part of the day

Goal: offer different opportunities to serve and practice evangelism.

Expected audience: adults, youth, seniors, older kids (grade 1 onwards)

Time: Morning: 9:00 – 11.30 / Evening 6.30 – 8.30 pm

How: We will meet at the Dream Centre (<http://www.hamiltondreamcenter.ca/>). The address is 627 Main Street East (the parking lot is behind the building, and to access pass the building, turn left, and left again). Melody Whitehead will be in charge of giving instructions on what we need to do there. Depending on the number of people, we will organize the food bank, the clothes bank, do some cleaning at the parking lot and some gardening. (for those that will help in garden, bring gardening gloves).

### **Wednesday evening – Bike Repair/Food Distribution (5:30 – 8.30pm)**

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*This event is limited to 5 participants only*

There are different ways to reach out to the street people around us. Geoff Beatty and others are using a Bike Repair strategy to try to connect with some of them. This is an opportunity for some more of our Philpott people to see what is happening. They may choose to participate in this or similar outreach programs in the future.

Expected Outcomes for participants:

KNOW: who our street neighbours are

BE: moved to consider new opportunities to serve and love others in Jesus' name

DO: participate in this street event - help to serve food, engage in conversation, and observe the need.

Expected audience: Teens, adults, seniors

Time: 5:30 to 8:30

How: From 5:30 to 6:30, Geoff will provide a guitar and some songs to sing together while bike repair is offered for the people that show up at the old Bus Terminal (downtown). This is a time to connect, talk with people, and listen to their stories.

Around 6:30/7:00 food will be provided and we will help serve the food. It is also expected that we will continue to talk with the people while they are eating.

Who: Geoff Beatty will be in charge of the event.

### **Day 5 - Friday evening – Outreach Dinner – Taste of Brazil - 6:00 – 8:30 pm**

There is a place at the table for everyone. Some of our friends, relatives and neighbors do not know yet that they have a Place at the Table. This evening is a tool that God can use to touch some hearts, and open their minds to understand that He loves everyone and desires to have a personal relationship with them.

We will use the Brazilian food as a hook to attract some of our friends to come, connect with us and listen about God. The idea is for everyone to invite an unbeliever friend to come and celebrate with us. We will serve a “feijoada”, a typical Brazilian meal (black beans and pork, served with rice, orange and green cabbage. Passion fruit mousse as desert).

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You are invited to come with an unbeliever friend, however, if you do not a friend, come anyway. We will need your help to connect with other friends who will be here. We will sing some songs and have a devotional about the theme.

Maybe this is an opportunity that some of our friends are waiting for, to receive an invitation and change their lives.

### Expected Outcomes for participants:

**KNOW:** we are responsible for those friends and relatives around us that still do not know Jesus.

**BE:** we need to be tools in God's hands and be open to be used by Him inviting and connecting with people.

**DO:** participate in dinner with the purpose of interacting with other friends, and present God's love for them.

**Goal:** to help people understand different cultural approaches when we think about evangelism and reaching out to other people.

**Expected audience:** families, teens, adults, kids, seniors.

**Time:** We will need some help for dinner prep and set up (arrive at 4.00pm) and for cleaning up after the dinner.

Dinner: 6:00 to 8:30 pm Tickets will be sold beforehand at \$ 6,00 / each to help with the costs (and to get more commitment from people).

### Who can help:

1. Prepare the dinner: Marta Nichele will organize a team
2. Room set up and clean up: Helio will build a team (maybe with teenagers)
3. Program: Helio