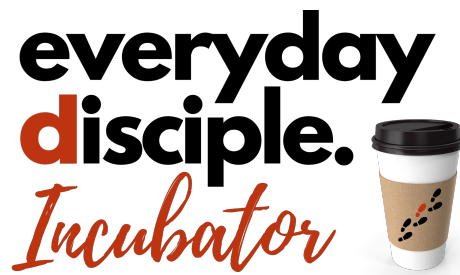


# Module 8

## The Open Table





## Module 8 | The Open Table

*It's important to shift from believing that only those folks in my nuclear family are 'really my family,' and thinking that my house is my personal refuge... toward treating everyone like family and believing that our homes are gifts from God to be used to bless others and glorify him.*

👁 Starting to have meals with our neighbors and People of Peace flows right out of the natural rhythms we've begun to establish with our own families. The patterns and rhythms of grace we've established as a family, and at our table, now begin to move outward to include others that God is bringing into our lives—those we are going to be discipling.

everyday  
disciple.

### COMMON MISTAKE

*I have to be a perfect host with a perfect home*

- Your righteousness is not found in your housekeeping and cooking skills!
- Nobody keeps a perfect home... and it really doesn't matter.
- It's all about time with us and access to our lives.

## A Place at Dad's Table

We have learned that the simplicity and yet the profundity of having a meal together has been lost for many in our culture today. But this gives us an awesome opportunity to share God's love and generosity with people while doing something we are already doing perhaps twenty-one times per week! All we have to do is invite someone to join us.

What would it be like if you were to invite just one or two not-yet believers to share a meal with you each week? You're eating anyway, so not much extra time is required. Do you think it could have an impact? I can assure you it will, for it presents a picture of the availability of the kingdom to all those who would enter in. Our family, our community, represents the open arms of God and a place at his dinner table.

"I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. –Ephesians 3:14-17

"There is...one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." –Ephesians 4:6

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." –  
Matthew 25:40



**God is our Father and expects us to treat others as family too—the way he treats us.**

*Your thoughts...* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Tips for making Open Table great...

- Don't stress the small stuff (*it's all small stuff!*)
- Pray for your time together beforehand
- Treat everyone like family members—not like guests
- There are different times and ways to host an Open Table
- Let/encourage folks to bring something to the meal. It's not all on you!



See last page of this Module 8 Worksheet 



### So What Did We Learn?

*A quick review...*

- As God's family on earth we get to treat everyone like family
- The Power of Predictable Patterns
- Tips for making your Open Table easy and awesome!

Key Takeaways From This Lesson

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**This really is all about people getting time with us and access to our lives.**

1. How often are you having neighbors, not-yet-believers, and People of Peace over for a meal with you and your family? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you find it hard to treat people like family rather than guests when you have them into your home? If so, why?

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3. Where do you need to move from unbelief to belief in this area of your own discipleship?

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## **Action Steps**

Set a date now to discuss and plan what night(s) or times you are going to regularly have Open Table. When and how often will you do this? \_\_\_\_\_ (*Get a rhythm going right away...*)

☐ Download **Tina's Tips for Awesome Open Table Times** now!

## **Who would you consider inviting to join you at your Open Table?**

Ask the Spirit to show you who specifically... and when.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ After your first Open Table together, review what went well, what you learned about folks and what you could do to add to and improve the experience *and* intentionality of your times together. When'll you do this? \_\_\_\_\_

# Tina's Tips

*For Awesome*

## Open Table Times

The secret to having a great open table meal is to keep it simple and have fun. I suggest doing as much preparation ahead of time as your space and refrigeration allows. Being "present" with your guests and People of Peace is more important than having an impressive display of food. Make a list in advance of the Open Table time of what you need to do, buy, and what you are serving to help destress yourself.

### **Don't be afraid to let people help**

Making a list will help you to easily let people know how they can contribute. It may be something to bring – or it may be coming early to help you set up or clean up. Think through where people can help you and it will help them feel like 'real' family!

### **Find meals you like and can do easily**

Your **Open Table** should be a reflection of your life as a family. Everyone has their 'go to' favorites – dinners that you can pull off – even in your busiest and most stressed times... Share the meals your family likes. Family favorites will be enjoyed by friends as well, and so are the stories connected to those meals and recipes.

### **Pick a Theme**

'Theming' the meal is the easiest way to keep a 'pot luck' style dinner on the right track and somewhat cohesive. Themes also can make things fun – creating a challenge for others to step up to. Some of our favorites are: Breakfast for Dinner, Taco Night, and Chili Fest. Soup and Salad, Pasta Night, Fondue Night – all of these give people a 'rail' to run on and make participating in the meal easier.

### **My three favorite themes and plans:**

**Breakfast for Dinner** Our family has a simple meal for breakfast (actually good for lunch, dinner and midnight snack too!) that has become a bit famous in our circles. It is based around a main course of... Salami Eggs. This is a weird family recipe that was actually created over time and has become a definite family favorite, but also our community's. You really have to try it to understand the magic!

#### **The basic meal is this:**

Salami eggs  
Breakfast Cake  
Fruit salad or fruit  
Coffee & Mimosas

Simple. Easy – and not expensive. It is very easy to have others bring the OJ and champagne, fruit salad or even the breakfast cake... We also have had people bring parts of the salami eggs recipe (salami, eggs, cream cheese, tortillas).

Get the recipe here: <http://www.caesarkalinowski.com/salami-eggs>