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A People Focus Makes Hospitality Achievable and Affordable

Aiming for a simple, meaningful interaction rather than a cooking show tour de force can put entertaining guests within reach of busy people with budgets and lived-in homes. A fresh look at stories of Jesus at the table

suggests focusing on hospitality by moving from the dining room to the kitchen, and from being impressive to making meaningful connections.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - November 18, 2011 - In our world of stress there's one resource waiting to recalibrate our lives—the welcome hospitality of the kitchen table. Food is God's good gift designed to give us more gifts. In today's culture, we certainly have not stopped enjoying food, but the pressures of life-pace and perfectionism rob us of the pleasures of relaxed communal life around the table.

Author Joanne Thompson invites readers to discover hospitality's freedoms and joys by looking at Jesus's table life. Christ took time to eat meals every day. He conversed, loved and lingered at the table in numerous homes. This practical and inspirational guide shows how Jesus frees us from comparing our own home and culinary skills to the mythical perfect house and perfect cook that lurk threateningly in our imaginations (and maybe on TV). We love our coffee shops, and millions are entertained by television cooking stars every day, but rarely do we savor relationships by inviting friends, neighbors or strangers to our homes.

Hospitality need not feel like one more anxious, expensive, exhausting obligation, but it's the treasure of an open door for both guest and host to be touched by God's love. Table life is for every home—from the one room studio apartment to the house in the sprawling suburbs. Shrinking budgets might limit the array of food on the table but not Christ's supply of love. Jesus still accomplishes amazing things through our willingness to offer a cup of cold water. And who doesn't have a cup of water to share?

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